



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 17, 2014

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Recognition of Santa Barbara Junior Lifeguard Ben Brewer

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission recognize Santa Barbara Junior Lifeguard Ben Brewer for his selection to the 2014 USA Youth National Team.

DISCUSSION: The Santa Barbara Junior Lifeguard program has a well-documented record of fostering and developing junior lifeguard champions at both the state and national level. However, in the 43-year program history, there has never been a Santa Barbara representative on the USA Junior Lifeguard National Team until this summer.

Ben, who started as a Junior Lifeguard in 2007, has developed into a standout pool and more recently, ocean swimmer. On top of a grueling training schedule with the Santa Barbara Swim Club and his role as a Junior Lifeguard Instructor Aide, he hoisted the Semana Nautica Ocean Swimmer of the year trophy for the second straight year.

The Junior National Team was determined after an exhaustive nationwide search for the best surf lifesaving athletes between 15-18 years of age. Ben, at age 16, was selected to the team, which consisted of six male and female athletes all of whom were required to compete in multiple beach, surf, and pool events. During the two-week Lifeguard World Championships in France, Ben competed against Junior Lifeguards from over 26 countries while representing Team USA in ten events.

Ben has already been invited to represent the Youth National Team at the 2016 World Championships in the Netherlands. The Aquatic Section is excited about his early selection, but more importantly, staff is looking for ways to continue developing his instructional and leadership skills. Staff is looking to Ben to advance and become one of our Santa Barbara Junior Lifeguard Instructors.

It is with great gratitude that the Parks and Recreation Department recognizes Ben Brewer for representing Santa Barbara as an ambassador of Team USA during the 2014 Lifeguard World Championships.

SUBMITTED BY: Rich Hanna, Recreation Manager

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director