



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 27, 2011

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Community Recognition of Whole Foods Market

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission recognize Whole Foods Market for their support of the Healthy Options for Teens, Culinary Arts Program.

DISCUSSION:

Neighborhood and Outreach Services' Healthy Options for Teens, Culinary Arts Program curriculum includes education regarding organic foods, cooking healthy vegetables and understanding the benefits of locally grown fruit and vegetables. The program exists through the support provided by enthusiastic volunteers and generous donations. Whole Foods Market has been exemplary in providing both types of support to the program.

Each session, Rae Van Seenus enthusiastically conducts a tour and educational session for the teens. She gears the topics based on the interest of each participant. Some are interested in vegetables they have never tasted, some on how poultry is prepared for marketing, but all are interested in the handmade pizza. They prepare samples throughout the store specifically for the teens, so they can actually sample the difference between what they might have been eating and what they could be eating.

The employees of the store make a special effort to welcome the teens. During one session, we passed over the cheese area. That staff sent a messenger over to remind us not to forget her counter. She had prepared special samples for us.

Most importantly, their weekly donation of fruit and vegetables are essential to our menu.

It's with tremendous gratitude that the Parks and Recreation Department recognizes Whole Foods Market for their volunteerism and support of the Teen Culinary Arts Program.

PREPARED BY: Anita Ho, Recreation Specialist

SUBMITTED BY: Sarah Hanna, Recreation Program Manager

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