

SANTA BARBARA



POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

AGENDA DATE: June 22, 2011
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Ed Szeyller, Executive Director, Police Activities League
SUBJECT: 2011 Police Activities League (PAL) Annual Report on the Twelve35 Teen Center

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RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on the 2011 Police Activities League (PAL) Annual Report on the Twelve35 Teen Center.

DISCUSSION:

The Santa Barbara Police Activities League (PAL) assumed responsibility for the Twelve35 Teen Center on Chapala St. in September of 2010. SB PAL gladly accepted the challenge to increase daily use of the center by our community youth. SB PAL has been involved with the South Coast Youth Gang Task Force since its inception and we have been asked by the City of Santa Barbara and City of Goleta, the Santa Barbara School District and the Parks & Recreation Department to provide programming on-campus or at the Teen Center for teen youth.

During the first couple months, SB PAL set up a computer network to include faster internet access and cabling throughout the building to provide additional computer works spaces. We surveyed the youth attending the center and youth involved in SB PAL programs on nine school campuses to see what programs they wanted. We listened to their desires for programming and began the process for providing programs. The first two months we were in the center the average attendance was between 4 and 6 youth. They were a wealth of information.

Beginning after the Holiday break we began providing the following programs at the Teen Center for youth:

- Notes for Notes - Music production and mixing
- Samba Dancing
- Everybody Dance Now (Hip-Hop dancing)
- Mosaic Art Production
- Glass Art
- African Drums
- Photography (taught by a Brooks Institute Professor)
- Tutoring

The Teen Center provides programs five days a week after school. On an average day, our documented after-school attendance is between 22-28 youth. During Spring Break, there was an average daily attendance of 32 youth. SB PAL also provided a Big PAL/Little PAL day camp for 14 elementary age youth who went on daily adventures at the Zoo, Natural History Museum, bowling and riding the "LandShark". The day camp was a mentoring program with the mentors being high school PAL Youth Leadership Council and the "Little PALS" being youth identified by school advocates as at-risk elementary students.

After our "Putting Kids First" event in April we were approached by a donor who has supported our Campership Alliance and Teen Center activities over the past year. This donor and his wife have donated to PAL \$18,000 to enhance activities at the Teen Center over the summer and to fully fund the "Cops & Kids" camp we do every summer with 30-40 youth. This funding has allowed us to open the Teen Center every day from 12:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. during the summer, it allows for additional purchases of computer related items needed for programs, provides \$150 a week to buy food for attendees of summer programs and also funds Youth Leadership members to assist with summer programming in our popular "Note for Notes" class. Notes for Notes will be provided for five sessions during the summer.

During the summer months the Teen Center will be open for Campership Alliance in the morning at approximately 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 7:00 p.m.