



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: November 20, 2013

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Junior High Afterschool Sports Leagues

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Junior High Afterschool Sports Program.

DISCUSSION:

National statistics show that the afterschool hours, between 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. have the highest incidents of juvenile crime and youth engaging in inappropriate behaviors. The City and Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD) have partnered for many years to provide afterschool programs at SBUSD elementary and junior high schools as the programs provide essential support to families during the crucial afterschool hours. Each year, the City and SBUSD enter into agreements to define terms and budgets for the administration of three afterschool recreation programs including A-OK! and RAP at 11 elementary schools and the four Junior High schools . Parks and Recreation and SBUSD staff will present information to the Commission on the history of the Junior High Afterschool Sports Program and changes to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 program.

Background

With both agencies understanding the positive long-term impacts of sports skills development and importance of engaging youth afterschool, the Junior High Afterschool Sports Program has been offered free to all participants since 1985 on all four junior high campuses. During the 16 initial years, SBUSD and the City equally split the costs to operate the program (\$85,000). Parks and Recreation administered the program and provided support staff. One of the key components of the program's success was that junior high teachers were recruited to serve as coaches and paid a stipend for their work. The teachers were able to effectively recruit students into the afterschool activities and build on their classroom relationships.

Beginning in FY 2003, both agencies faced financial challenges. The program went through several years of changes related to agency commitments, funding, and program structure. In particular, the District mandated that teachers serving as coaches needed to be paid teacher wages rather than stipends. With reduced funding, this aspect of the program was discontinued. At one point, the program was offered for a small fee, but this proved to be

unsuccessful and participation dropped significantly. With the formation of the City of Goleta, beginning in FY 2005, Goleta joined the collaborative by providing funding towards services provided at Goleta Valley Junior High. Also in FY 2005, the City restored \$20,000 in annual General Fund support for the program, which continues today.

With the economic downturn in FY 2009, both the City and SBUSD faced budget cuts. The elimination of a part-time City position that coordinated the program threatened continuation of the program. Fortunately, the Santa Barbara Police Activities League (SBPAL) stepped forward to administer the program beginning in FY 2010. SBPAL was very successful in raising funds through grants and donations to support operation of the program, in addition to funds provided by SBUSD, City of Santa Barbara, and City of Goleta. Under SBPAL, the sports league program became more structured with an educational achievement and attendance element, uniforms, and expanded end of season tournament play. SBPAL successfully ran the program through June of 2013.

Last spring, SBUSD informed SBPAL and the City that they were interested in administering the program, in order to return to the model that utilized certificated teachers and coaches with the goal of increasing student participation. Since teachers have the best chance of engaging student participation, the City accepted the proposal, and SBPAL redirected their energy and resources to other activities. On October 22, 2013, City Council approved the Junior High Afterschool Sports Program agreement with the SBUSD which included the City's \$20,000 funding commitment which is budgeted in the FY 2014 Parks and Recreation Department General Fund budget.

On November 4, 2013, the District began the first of a three-season league schedule, with Santa Barbara Junior High Principal Lito Garcia serving as the SBUSD administrator of the program. Assistant Superintendent Ben Drati will provide more specific information about structure and operation of the 2013-2014 Junior High Sports League program in their presentation to the Commission.

SUBMITTED BY: Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

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