



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

Date: March 19, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted by: Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director

Subject: **Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with Tri-City Mental Health Center for Use of the City's Recreational Facilities to Provide Services and Programs to the Community**

OVERVIEW

Recommendation - That the City Council:

1. Approve entering into an agreement allowing Tri-City Mental Health Center to use City recreational facilities at no cost to offer free services and programs to the community.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the contract and any non- monetary amendments or extensions thereto, subject to review by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact- No money is being exchanged as a part of this agreement; therefore there is no direct fiscal impact. However, by this agreement the City will benefit from the provision of qualified programming at community centers at no expense to the City save normal costs of utilities, etc.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed agreement will allow Tri-City Mental Health Center to offer free services and activities at City facilities (at no cost) during existing City programs. The agreement term would begin on April 1, 2018. The initial program offering will focus on teen support groups and activities at the after school recreation program at the Renacimiento Community Center in the Angela/Chanslor neighborhood. The agreement leaves room to expand the scope of Tri-City's services to include other programs and locations in the future.

DISCUSSION

The Community Services division recognizes that the City cannot meet all of the community's needs alone. Furthermore, Community Services believes it can make a deeper and longer lasting impact through collaboration. This is why in recent years Community Services has diligently looked to

partner with qualified and reputable agencies that are committed to Pomona and offer consistency and quality programming.

In March 2017, the Renacimiento Community Center, in the Angela/Chanslor neighborhood, was temporarily closed due to ongoing safety and patron behavioral concerns. The intention of the closure was to allow staff the opportunity to meet with the neighborhood members to share concerns, restate the City's commitment to the neighborhood, better understand the needs of the community and to share resources that could potentially benefit the community (both inside and outside the center). The goal was to reopen the center with enhanced programming; staffing and an improved physical appearance that will help staff and partners better serve the community.

Following the closure, two community meetings were held at the center to communicate the situation with the neighborhood and also to offer information about services, including those available from Tri-City Mental Health Center. The community expressed interest in the services, and a second community meeting was held where Tri-City presented more details about the various services they could provide. At this meeting, the community expressed a strong interest in specific programming, including on-site teen support groups and activities. As a result, the City and Tri-City determined that providing these services on-site at Renacimiento would provide the greatest access to the community.

The center reopened in July 2017 with freshly painted walls, new staff and new programming. Since then it has been running smoothly. The floors also received a deep cleaning and a partnership with PUSD and Mt. Sac has brought back ESL classes to the center. The City hopes to enhance programmatic offerings to the community through this community partnership with Tri-City.

The proposed agreement would allow Tri-City Mental Health Center to use City recreation facilities at no cost, in order to provide free services and programs to the community during the City's afterschool recreation hours, beginning on April 1, 2018.

The initial program offering would begin with weekly teen support groups and activities at the Renacimiento Community Center. The agreement has been written so that Tri-City's program offering could be expanded to include other various services, throughout the City's recreation sites in the future, should the need arise. Staff believes that starting with services at Renacimiento is a prudent way to begin this specific partnership with Tri-City and to evaluate success from there.

As Tri-City Mental Health Center specializes in mental health and community wellness, staff believes that partnering with such an agency has the strategic potential to address needs in the community that City staff is not always equipped or trained to handle. Staff hopes that utilizing relationships with other agencies that are experts in certain fields will have a greater, more effective impact on our neighborhoods moving forward.

Prepared by: Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager; Aren Yeh, Management Analyst
Attachment: Agreement with Tri-City Mental Health Center for Use of the City's Recreational Facilities