



CITY OF POMONA

COUNCIL REPORT

September 20, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: James Makshanoff, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director

SUBJECT: ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION TO THE POMONA CITY COUNCIL TO INCLUDE THE TERM “ENGAGED COMPASSION” AS A CORE VALUE OF THE CITY

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council accept the recommendation of the Community Life Commission to include the term “Engaged Compassion” as a Core Value of the City, to be placed on the City of Pomona website and related promotional material.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On August 24, 2021, the Community Life Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the City Council that the term “Engaged Compassion” be included as a core value of the City. This recommendation followed a presentation to the commissioners from members of Compassionate Pomona on July 27, 2021. The Core Values of the City are displayed on the City’s website as an extension of the City’s Vision and Mission Statement. This same information can also be found in other promotional material.

FISCAL IMPACT: This action has no fiscal impact.

DISCUSSION:

In 2015 many religious leaders and individuals in the Pomona Community came together to champion Pomona joining the over 400 other Compassionate Cities in the world. As a result of these efforts, in 2018 Compassionate Pomona was proclaimed by both the Pomona City Council and the Pomona Unified School Board.

Formally, Compassionate Pomona is a group of individuals and organizational leaders that meet monthly to promote compassionate action and activities. Since the formation of this group, many other community groups are now working together to spread compassionate actions throughout

the city and support each other's initiatives. The members of Compassionate Pomona feel this “engaged compassion” has encouraged a movement where more and more Pomonans see themselves as compassionate individuals, living and working in a compassionate community. These efforts have resulted in projects that include enrichment programs for children, stress reduction training, responses to at-risk young people, and police-community dialogue.

Engaged Compassion as a Core Value

According to Compassionate Pomona, a definition of compassion is “to move alongside those who suffer and to want to alleviate the suffering”. Compassion at its best is an action, as well as a feeling. The members of Compassionate Pomona prefer to call this action – “Engaged Compassion”.

On July 27, 2021, members of Compassionate Pomona made a presentation to the Community Life Commission regarding the term “Engaged Compassion”. They suggested that since the City Council affirmed Pomona a “Compassionate City”, the term “Engaged Compassion” should be included in the list of core values of the City of Pomona and should be reflected as such on the City’s website and other promotional materials that display the City’s Core Values list.

The City Website – About Pomona

Under the section “About Pomona”, the City’s website currently has the following information:

Five-Year Vision Statement

Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.

Mission Statement

The City of Pomona improves the quality of life for our diverse community.

Core Values

Cultural Diversity
Fiscal Responsibility
Focusing on the Future
Excellent Customer Service
Leadership
Clear and Open Communication

It is under the “Core Values” section that Compassionate Pomona asked the Community Life Commission to consider placing the words “Engaged Compassion”

Community Life Commission Recommendation

During the August 24, 2021 meeting, the Community Life Commission considered the request of Compassionate Pomona to elevate the recommendation to include the term “Engaged Compassion” as a core value of the City to the City Council.

The Community Life Commission voted unanimously to support the recommendation and present it to City Council.

The Community Life Commission recommends to City Council that the term “Engaged Compassion” be formally included in the list of Core Values of the City, and as such be added to the City’s website and other related promotional material.

Prepared by:

Benita DeFrank
Neighborhood Services Director