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# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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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: ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO RECEIVE \$300,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FROM POMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (PUSD) FOR OUTDOOR AND ACTIVE YOUTH PROGRAM AND AMEND THE FY 2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET BY INCREASING REVENUE ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATIONS AND ADDING ONE (1) RECREATION COORDINATOR POSITION**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

- 1) Adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-108 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA, CALIFORNIA TO RECEIVE \$300,000 FROM POMONA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (PUSD) IN GRANT FUNDING FOR OUTDOOR AND ACTIVE YOUTH PROGRAM AND AMEND THE FY 2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET BY INCREASING REVENUE ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 AND ADDING ONE (1) RECREATION COORDINATOR POSITION (ATTACHMENT No. 1)**

- 2) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute an agreement with PUSD to receive \$300,000 in grant funding, following City Attorney approval.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The City and PUSD have been developing an ongoing and growing partnership to provide recreation opportunities to youth in the community. In alignment with this direction, PUSD has made \$300,000 in grant funding available in order for the City to provide various specialty programs designed to address the academic, recreational, and social/emotional losses District students have experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** An increase to revenues estimates (215-4190-40916-58765) and a corresponding appropriation (215-4190-XXXXX-58765) of \$300,000 will be added to the FY

2021-22 Operating Budget. \$85,000 of the appropriation will fund a new Recreation Coordinator position.

## **BACKGROUND:**

COVID-19 has had a significant negative impact on youth educationally, recreationally, socially and emotionally as students have been unable to interact with others and participate in activities, as they were able to pre-COVID.

The lengthy duration of the pandemic, as well as the deprivation of these interactions and activities, has also negatively affected the physical and mental health of youth, leading to a decrease in recreational/physical activity, increased sense of isolation, depression and even self-harm/suicide.

In a meeting with Pomona Unified School District, PUSD leadership identified and confirmed that they were concerned with the academic, recreational, social and emotional losses students have experienced.

Youth in lower socio-economic communities, like those in Pomona, are disproportionately impacted by the aforementioned. They are less likely to have access to safe recreation spaces, the financial means to engage in paid activities or interventions and the lack of availability of such activities in their community. This lack of access to recreation, also leads to inactivity and consequently higher rates of obesity, which is prevalent in Pomona.

Now more than ever, it is vital to get youth active and reconnected with the outdoors, nature and increase socialization.

## **DISCUSSION:**

To address these needs, PUSD has made \$300,000 in grant funding available to the City, and the Community Services Division will be using this funding to offer enhanced programming to through an Outdoor and Active Youth Program. The focus will be on schools that are adjacent or in close proximity to the following parks:

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Kellogg Park                | 6. Philadelphia Park   |
| 2. Kennedy Park                | 7. Phillips Ranch Park |
| 3. Palomares Park/La Casita    | 8. Washington Park     |
| 4. Martin Luther King Jr. Park | 9. Westmont Park       |
| 5. Montvue Park                | 10. Willie White Park  |

The City will offer a wide variety of recreational and social-emotional growth opportunities during out-of-school time, including:

- Expansion of the City's After School Sports Leagues to include designated PUSD/TLC sites.
- Creation of outdoor recreational / enrichment opportunities in Pomona parks.

- Outdoor / nature fieldtrips / exploration of Pomona parks, regional parks & and a variety of other outdoor activities.

It is important to note that in communities like Pomona, these types of activities are less likely to be offered or made available. Some of these activities would not be affordable to the average Pomona family. Due to the lower socio-economic makeup of the community, activities may also be less accessible due to cost, transportation challenges, parent availability (working, single parent households), etc.

Another factor that adds barriers to recreational participation is the perceived and real perception of park safety. It is Community Services' experience and belief that the more parks are activated with positive activity, the more negative activity is deterred. With the creation of more supervised park-based activities, there is potential to make parks, adjacent schools as well as the adjacent neighborhood safer.

#### Key Aspects of the Outdoor and Active Youth Program:

- Activities will comply with LA County Department of Public Health COVID-19 guidelines in place at time of implementation.
- Fiscally, the City will look to use \$85,000 of the awarded funds to pay for the salary of a full-time Recreation Coordinator to help coordinate and implement programming, along with several part time staff members. Additionally, the City will seek partnerships with local organizations to enhance program offerings. A portion of the funding will go to pay for program supplies and admission fees associated with trips or activities.
- Whether the activity is a structured sports league, a park based art class, a nature hike or the revitalization of traditional games that kids just do not play anymore; the program will instill participants with a sense of respect for nature, teamwork and fun.
- Days, times and activities will reflect community input and availability of funds.
- The City hopes to finalize the Master Joint Use Agreement with PUSD to further support these types of programs as well as the collaboration between the City's and Districts after school program. The approved use of District properties for activities such as sports league games and practices on fields and in gyms, when space does not exist at adjacent parks would be greatly beneficial to the program.

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES & GOALS:** This item supports the 2021-22 City Council Priority 4: Safe and Clean Community; Goal M: Improve safety and cleanliness at parks and public spaces; Step 3: Re-open community centers as public health orders allow, collaborating with community organizations to increase service levels to seniors, families, and youth.

Prepared by:

Aren Yeh, Management Analyst

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment No. 1 – Resolution No. 2021-108