

**APPROVED**

**MAY 13 2013**

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 13-139

DATE May 13, 2013

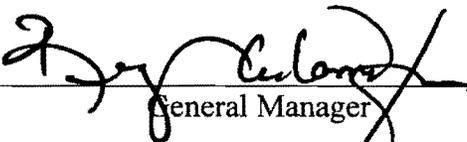
**BOARD OF RECREATION  
& PARK COMMISSIONERS**

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**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

**SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP DIVISION - DONATION OF FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE NATASHA WATLEY FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF A DEPARTMENT-OPERATED GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE AT TEN PARK SITES**

R. Adams _____	K. Regan _____
H. Fujita _____	M. Shull _____
*V. Israel <u>    </u>	N. Williams _____

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Board:

1. Accept a donation from the Natasha Watley Foundation valued at approximately \$16,125.00, as detailed in the Summary of this Report, and that appropriate recognition be given to the donor; and,
2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Chief Accounting Employee to establish a sub-account in Department 89 Fund 302 Account 89703H "Sports Organization" for the deposit of funds received from the Natasha Watley Foundation and pay for related expenses from said sub-account.

**SUMMARY:**

As part of RAP's ongoing collaboration with the Natasha Watley Foundation for the operation of the "Natasha Watley Girls Softball League", the Foundation proposes to donate the following for the 2013 summer season: sports uniforms with an estimated value of \$5,400.00, softball equipment with an estimated value of up to \$1,500.00, and cash in the amount of \$1,725.00 to pay for umpires, and in-kind services in the form of a Coach Mentor Program. The Foundation has supported the league every year with financial and in-kind contributions since 2011.

The Coach Mentor Program, as explained below, is a service provided by the Foundation at no cost to RAP with a value of approximately \$6,000.00. The Foundation will also provide

## REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 2

NO. 13-139

manuals and other materials with an approximate value of \$1,500.00, providing guidelines for the implementation of a successful youth girls' softball league at ten (10) City parks, collectively estimated at a total of \$16,125.00.

In 2012, the League consisted of twelve (12) teams at the following nine (9) recreation centers located in the Pacific Region: Algin Sutton, Baldwin Hills, Central, Green Meadows, Jackie Tatum/Harvard, Jordan Downs, Mount Carmel, Rosecrans, and Van Ness. Over one hundred eighty (180) girls between the ages of eight (8) and twelve (12) participated in the League.

In helping to contribute to the League's success, the Foundation added two (2) new components to the League: the Coach Mentor Program and an Essay Contest. The Coach Mentor Program matches top female athletes from universities nationwide with each of the participating recreation centers. Coach Mentors not only coach but also teach the "Four Points of the Diamond" – discipline, dedication, dignity and duty. With the help of the Coach Mentors, each player is given the opportunity to write an essay based on the core values of character and the Four Points of the Diamond.

The 2011 contest winner Myshai Poe and a chaperone attended the National Pro Fast Pitch Championship Game in Sulphur, Louisiana, and participated in softball clinics taught by top female athletes with all expenses paid by the Foundation. The 2012 contest winner Asia Bryant and a chaperone attended the National Pro Fast Pitch Championship Game in Rosemont, Illinois.

The Foundation was founded by two-time Olympic softball medalist Natasha Watley to create opportunities for girls in underserved communities, so that they may learn and play the game of softball. The Foundation desires to see young women whose financial resources are limited be able to train, develop, and compete in a high-quality softball league.

The League is a summer program which takes place each year from June thru August. This year's League (2013) consists of twelve (12) teams representing ten (10) recreation centers and their respective communities. Opening Day will be held on June 5, 2013, at Algin Sutton Recreation Center. Games begin June 11 and end on or about August 20, 2013. Each team will play nine (9) games. All games will be played on Tuesday evenings. RAP will conduct all administrative functions related to the program, such as promoting the League, recruiting and registering players, providing assistant coaches who will assist with weekly practices, providing players with transportation to and from games as needed, and hosting the opening and closing ceremonies using the registration fees collected from player participation to pay related expenses.

The Foundation will enhance the League experience with activities such as the Coach Mentor Program and Essay Contest. Other than requiring that the donated funds and equipment be used for the implementation of the League at participating parks in the Pacific Region, the Foundation

## REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

PG. 3

NO. 13-139

is asking for nothing else in return. Upon receipt and deposit of the funds into the Sports Organization Account, RAP will have full control of the funds through its Partnership Division, in coordination with Pacific Region Operations staff for the operation of the League.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Acceptance of this donation results in no impact to the RAP's General Fund, but rather will supplement the payment of League related expenses, as RAP does not have the necessary funding or resources to conduct these youth programs at the same level without assistance from supporters like the Foundation.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst, and Chinyere Stoneham, Senior Recreation Director II, Partnership Division.