

APPROVED
AUG 09 2017

**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

BOARD REPORT

NO. 17-175

DATE August 9, 2017

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DONATION FROM THE NATASHA WATLEY FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF A DEPARTMENT OPERATED GIRLS SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUE AT FOURTEEN PARK SITES

AP Diaz _____
R. Barajas _____
H. Fujita _____

*V. Israel _____
N. Williams _____



General Manager

Approved

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accept a donation from the Natasha Watley Foundation (NWF), consisting of cash and in-kind services, with a total estimated value of Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Ten Dollars and No Cents (\$11,410.00), in support of the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) operation of the 2017 Natasha Watley Summer Softball League (League), and that appropriate recognition be given to NWF; and,
2. Direct the RAP Chief Accounting Employee to deposit in the established Sports Organization Account under Fund 302, Department 89, Account 89703H, Sub-Account NW, all funds received from the NWF for the League, and to authorize the payment of League-related expenses from said Sub-Account.

SUMMARY

The NWF was founded by two-time Olympic softball medalist Natasha Watley to create softball-based developmental opportunities for girls in underserved communities in order for the participants to learn the game of softball and valuable life-skills. The NWF seeks young women whose financial resources are limited and to provide them with the opportunity to train, develop, and compete in a high-quality softball league such as the "Natasha Watley Softball League" in which they will be guided by the League's Coach Mentor Program (CMP).

As part of RAP's ongoing collaborative operation of the League, NWF donates the following for the 2017 summer season: cash in the amount of Four Thousand, Four Hundred Ten Dollars (\$4,410.00) for the payment of umpire fees; and in-kind services in the form of a Coach Mentor Program (CMP) with an estimated value of up to Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00). The collective value of the NWF's contribution to the League is estimated to be Eleven Thousand, Four Hundred Ten Dollars (\$11,410.00). The NWF donation is in conjunction with RAP's contribution of Girls Play Los Angeles (GPLA) Funds.

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The 2017 Softball League will be the tenth year of the League's operation and the sixth year of the CMP and associated Essay Contest. The CMP 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, players between the ages of 11 to 15 (eleven to fifteen) are given the opportunity to write an essay based on the core values of character and the Four Points of the Diamond.

The 2017 League consists of twenty-nine (29) teams representing fourteen (14) Recreation Centers and their respective communities. Participating recreation centers include Baldwin Hills, Central, Denker, Green Meadows, Imperial Courts, Jackie Tatum Harvard, Jim Gilliam, Martin Luther King Jr., Rancho Cienega, Ross Snyder, St. Andrews, Trinity, Van Ness, and Wilmington. The 2017 League Opening Day was held on June 10, 2017, at Rancho Cienega Sports Complex. Games began in June, and will end in mid-August. Each team will play eight games. RAP will conduct all administrative functions related to the program, such as promoting the League, recruiting and registering players, providing head or assistant coaches who will assist with weekly practices, and hosting the opening and closing ceremonies.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

This Report was prepared by Chinyere Stoneham, Recreation Supervisor, CLASS Parks, and Jennifer Sapone, Senior Management Analyst I, Program Grants.