



Community Services and Youth Committee Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

**TO: HONORABLE COMMUNITY SERVICES
AND YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

DATE: JULY 10, 2019

**FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE 12TH ANNUAL YOUNG MEN'S CONFERENCE HOSTED BY
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION - HELD AT THE BOURNS
TECHNOLOGY CENTER - DIRECT SUBMITTAL**

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the 12th Annual Young Men's Conference hosted by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department and the Riverside Community Health Foundation, held at the Bourns Technology Center for young men throughout the City.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Community Services and Youth Committee receive this report on the 12th Annual Young Men's Conference and provide feedback.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, in partnership with the Riverside Community Health Foundation, hosted the 12th Annual Young Men's Conference at the Bourns Technology Center on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. The goal of the Young Men's Conference is to provide at-risk young men with tools on how to overcome issues they face on a daily basis. A variety of social services providers offer information and resources to assist participants in making positive life choices. Throughout the conference, participants engage in workshops and activities where they listen to speakers presenting on opportunities available to them (education, careers, etc.) and the obstacles that hinder their success (gangs, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, incarcerations, domestic violence, etc.). The event has an average attendance of 235 guests each year and participants are recruited from Riverside, Alvord, and Jurupa Unified School Districts and various organizations such as charter schools, youth opportunity centers, probation officer recommendations, etc. In addition, the conference was named a "best practice" example by the State Office of Family Planning in 2011.

DISCUSSION:

For the 2019 conference, young men were introduced to technology and the innovative career options available in those fields. The hands-on workshops allowed the young men to really take part and interact with professionals. The conference was a great success and staff received multitudes of positive feedback. It was a day of inspiring, motivating and providing the tools and resources for young men in the community to realize they can achieve their goals.

This year's workshops consisted of drones, robotics, art, one-on-one mentor discussions and boxing demonstrations. Key Note Speaker, John W. North High School's Principal Benjamin Nakamura shared his testimony as a local Inland Empire youth whom struggled with drug addicted parents and growing up in a household that was not stable. Many youth seemed captured by his story as he gave examples of how he overcame those battles he dealt with as a young man. Mr. Gerry Lopez, Riverside County Supervising District Attorney, was the closing Key Note Speaker. He gave his testimony as a young man growing up in East L.A, watching his friends and family members become incarcerated as he strived to want to be a better person to help the community.

A student in attendance said he "enjoyed the conference because he was touched by the Keynote speakers, the workshops were fun, exciting and the FOOD was amazing."

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer / City Treasurer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. 2019 Young Men's Conference Program
2. Young Men's Conference Video