



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: MAY 15, 2023**
FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION – STAFF RECOGNITION

ISSUE:

Special recognition of staff member Patricia Rodgers to Commissioners.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive and accept the recognition and staff report for file.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) provides an array of programs and services to enhance the lives of Riverside residents. Staff prides themselves on delivering high-quality services to the community with award-winning programs and activities for residents of all ages and interests in a variety of safe and attractive parks, landscapes, and facilities, from maintenance, park renovations, construction projects, to special events, athletics, social services, cultural arts, school-age programs, transportation, and much more.

DISCUSSION:

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department would like to recognize Patricia Rodgers for her outstanding service during an unforeseen traffic accident. On November 23, 2022, while driving her usual route, with three passengers on board, (one of whom was a wheelchair passenger) Patricia's vehicle was struck from behind on the 91 freeway, causing her bus to flip on its side and skid for several feet. As the vehicle came to a halt, Patricia immediately radioed the Special Transit dispatch center who immediately contacted CHP emergency dispatching services to the location.

During this time, as the bus was on its' side, Patricia remained calm, only concerned with the safety of her passengers. Fortunately, all passengers including herself were unharmed, much due to the safety measures Patricia took when assuring that passengers were safely secured. It was Patricia's composed demeanor and reaction during this unfortunate accident that kept passengers calm and most importantly, safe.

Her ability to handle the situation with ease and poise helped her passengers remain calm. Special Transit is honored to have Patricia as a team member and acknowledge her courage, composure, and professionalism. She is an exemplary employee with four years of service with the City of Riverside's Special Transportation Division, and the City of Riverside is lucky to have her.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The work contributes to **Strategic Priority 2 – Community Well-Being** and **Goal 2.6** – Strengthen community preparedness for emergencies to ensure effective response and recovery.

The item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Staff's action during this incident maintains community trust and prioritizes the safety and well-being of the community.
2. **Equity** – The item is neutral towards this Cross-Cutting Thread.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The item is neutral towards this Cross-Cutting Thread.
4. **Innovation** – The item is neutral towards this Cross-Cutting Thread.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The item is neutral towards this Cross-Cutting Thread.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund as a result of this report.

Prepared by: Noemi Lopez, Deputy Director

Approved by: Pamela M. Galera, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director