

April 8, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to commend the efforts of Ms. Amina Ball.

I have been a daily visitor of Fairmount Park over the last five years. I spend approximately two hours walking my dog around the park in addition to feeding the feral ducks and geese. I have been known to catch ducks and geese, removing fishing line and hooks that they get entangled in. I have been very disappointed by the lack of funding through the city, which allows the parks to suffer. This leads to overfilled trash, litter around the park and in the lakes including palm fawns, and poorly kept grounds and restrooms. Each morning I contribute my time to pick up trash throughout the park trying to help make an impact. It is obvious that animals and hooligans rummage through the trash making a huge mess.

Around December of 2015, I began to notice that the park looked more cared for. I have observed on MANY occasions a new person moving around the park. This person was always working hard and actually taking pride in the work she was doing. You can see that she really cares about what she was doing and don't mind taking the time to go the extra mile to do the job correct and thoroughly. When I see her working with the Work Release Program people, oppose to letting them roam around talking and socializing, she actually supervises them to ensure that they were doing the job at task. You can see her watching them and knowing their whereabouts, while she is either with them or working alone on other things throughout the park. One day I introduced myself to Amina and expressed my thanks to her regarding her hard work and commitment to her job and how it shows that working for the city is not just a job for her, it shows she has compassion about what she does-and it is obvious! (I wish more city workers could learn from her work ethics, commitment, hard work and dedication). I told a weekend staff crew leader that the park surly deserved a great worker such as her and asked that the information be relayed back to the appropriate leadership personal and that the park has begun to be the treasure it was meant to be with the great help of Amina.

Amina has informed me that she enjoyed working for the city, but was a part-time employee and hoped to stay working for the City of Riverside as a fulltime employee one day. I understand there are budget issues that keep the park services understaffed, but to let someone like Amina go would be a disservice to Fairmount Park and the taxpayers of Riverside. Amina is AMAZING!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie M. Redmann".

Leslie M. Redmann

Cc: Parks Director

April 20, 2016

To whom it may concern:

My name is Veronica Cornejo, I am a parent of three wonderful children. For the past 6 years we have been missionaries in and out of Tijuana, Baja California. Last summer we moved back to Riverside so I can finish my Bachelor's degree in Child & Adolescent Development. Education is very important in our family especially because growing up as a Hispanic, education was not as important as getting a job and helping the family financially. Our goal is for all three of our children to graduate all the way with a Doctrine degree. At such a young age we are already implementing this idea in their minds.

Hannah our 9 year old has always wanted to be a Pediatrician because she loves helping others, but also because she says, "They make a lot of money!" She knows the importance of going to school to make this happen. After attend 6 weeks in Art history at the Riverside Arts Academy she has found her passion in life. Since a young age she has picked up pencils, markers and art materials. She never had any direction or classes especially because it is not economical. But thanks to your program my daughter can attend classes and learn new techniques and measures of art. This would have never been possible without the support of the staff in your program. Miss Elaine is such a wonderful director since the first day of class she greeted us with a loving smile and each week after that has shown interest in the lives of all the children. Miss Rachel, takes her time and explains every detail, she shows love and nurture to my daughter. She is also such a big role model as she explains to Hannah that she has a Masters in Art and she can get one too! Hannah leaves so happy and excitingly counts down the days for the next class.

She now wants to go to Art school and become an artist, although she knows this might not bring in as much money as a Pediatrician it no longer matters because she has found something she is passionate about and is going to run with it. This would have never been possible if your six week Art History in the Riverside Arts Academy program was not available to her. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Veronica Cornejo
951-314-5809

From: Torres, Arturo
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 10:46 AM
To: Cruz, Adolfo <AdCruz@riversideca.gov>
Cc: Bailey, Rusty <RBailey@riversideca.gov>; Lara, Mario <MLara@riversideca.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] Cali Rays - Riverside

Mr. Cruz

I just received this email from the Manager of the Cali Rays, a team based in Riverside (Reid Park) transplanted from Fontana – very fitting because most of the kids are Riversiders. As you can see he is very complimentary of you and your staff!

Anyway, I wanted to pass on their email. They are a very successful team as you can see from the list of accolades. This may be a great opportunity to recognize them in a City Council meeting. Please let me know if I may be of any assistance.

Regards,
Arturo

From: Marco Galvan [<mailto:marco@usauctions.net>]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2016 10:28 AM
To: Torres, Arturo
Subject: [External] Cali Rays - Riverside

Good morning Mr. Torres,

I just wanted to thank you and the City of Riverside for allowing us to rent a practice field for our youth program. Since January when we moved our once a week practice from the City of Fontana to our twice a week practice to the City of Riverside our already top 10 ranked team in California has won seven of eight tournaments thus becoming USSSA's #1 Power Ranked team in California. This is a very special accomplishment for us since our team is mostly composed of lower income families which normally cannot afford the highest performance bats, gloves, etc; which can give you a little edge. However, our kids have compensated the handicap with effort and heart to defeated the teams and come on top. During this past few months the Riverside Cali Rays have gone to defeat top ranked teams from Texas, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and California. This accomplishment could not have been possible without the help of Mr. Adolfo Cruz, Mario Lara, Robin Metz, Mayra Ocampo, and specially the help and professionalism of Mr. Tim Ridley and Violeta Garcia. Your Parks and Recreation Department has provided our youth with the help needed from the City to make us the #1 Ranked team in the State and to put the City of Riverside at the top of the charts. I wanted to give you an update on our performance as we prepare now to defend our 2015 World Series Championship which will be played in Southern California in July 2016. These are the accomplishments we have won since the City of Riverside has hosted our team:

- USSSA's – 2016 National Amateur Baseball Championship Select Super NIT Undefeated Champions.
- TBL – 2016 Cecil Fielder Spring Championship Series Champions. (Las Vegas, NV)
- TRIPLE CROWN SPORTS – 2016 Super Saturday Undefeated Champions.
- USSSA's – 2016 Winter World Series Undefeated Champions.
- USSSA's – 2016 Fool's Gold Tournament Champions.

- JWPB – 2016 14u Undefeated Champions.
- USSSA's – 2016 New Year's Classic Undefeated Champions.

On behalf of players, parents, coaching staff and the entire Cali Rays - Riverside Family, THANK YOU.

Marco Galvan

Manager

Cali Rays - Riverside









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Rank	State	Teams (57)	Ranking Points	Power Rating
1	CAS - Riverside	Cali Rays	2095	1230
2	CAN - Sto	Club All Star 13U Blue	1425	1206
3	CAS - RIVERSIDE	Game7	1360	1199
4	CAS - Norwalk	GBG Los Angeles	600	1187
5	CAN - Menlo Park	Team Kado Elite 13U	2300	1152
6	CAN - Belmont	Pedro Feliz Baseball Club	540	1127
7	CAN - Alameda	Seals Baseball Club	400	1127
8	CAS - Los Angeles	Los Angeles Steel Elite	1640	1125
9	CAN - Walnut Creek	Lamarinda 12u Trojans	235	1120
10	CAN - Carmichael	MVP Navy	765	1072
11	CAN - Vac	Admirals Black	1340	1061
12	CAN - Santa Clara	Living Legends Gray	1380	1051
13	CAN - Monterey	Cypress Sports Gators	655	1048
14	CAS - Winchester	Cal Select	710	1046
15	CAN - Chico	Chico Aces Blue	775	996
16	CAN - El Dorado Hills	Hard 90 Legacy Premier	1155	980
17	CAN - S	Club All Star 13U White	1440	973
18	CAC - San Diego	San Diego SHOW	80	948
19	CAC - El Cajon	San Diego Diamonds 13U	350	914
20	CAN - Pleasanton	Headfirst Bercovich 13U	1145	897
21	CAS - Corona	FCBA Titans Black	265	892
22	CAN - Modesto	Bel Passi Thunder	325	884

From: Jonathan Rizo [<mailto:jonathan.p.rizo@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 10:30 AM
To: Phillips, Julie
Subject: [External] Re: Torn United States Flag at Mt. Rubidoux

Julie,

I am truly grateful that I not only got a response from the City of Riverside but even more so that action has been taking so quickly! I really do appreciate such a quick turnaround and even more so the flag being replaced! I definitely do understand that the elements take a toll on the flag as I've replaced the one on my home several times now. However, the quick response shown here by the County of Riverside has impressed me and I am a proud resident of the county.

Thank you once again as it is truly appreciated!

Sincerely,
Jonathan Rizo
Cell : (626) 646-9141
Email : Jonathan.p.rizo@gmail.com

On Wed, Jun 1, 2016 at 10:12 AM, Phillips, Julie <JPhillips@riversideca.gov> wrote:

Mr. Rizzo,

I am so sorry to hear that your family hiking trip to Mt. Rubidoux this past weekend in memory of your fallen comrades was made imperfect by the sight of the torn United States flag. I notified the Park's Supervisor immediately and he has dispatched his crew to replace it.

Although the flag is inspected regularly, it is exposed to the elements so it can appear to be in great condition one day and with the slightest amount of wind it can become torn like you witnessed this weekend.

I am grateful to you for taking the time to email us so we can replace it today. Your notification has helped us continue to fly the United States Flag proudly at the top of Mt. Rubidoux.

I hope you enjoy future visits to Riverside's Mt. Rubidoux and please let me know if you have any other concerns.

Thank you for contacting the City of Riverside, have a terrific day!

Julie Phillips
Accounting Technician
City of Riverside
Parks, Recreation & Community Services Dept.
[\(951\) 351-6381](tel:9513516381)

From: Jonathan Rizo [<mailto:jonathan.p.rizo@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 2:58 PM
To: Ocampo, Mayra
Subject: [External] Torn United States Flag at Mt. Rubidoux

To Whom It May Concern,

This past weekend (Memorial Day Weekend) I went hiking at Mt. Rubidoux with my family for the holiday to remember my fallen comrades in arms. We started off the day with the hike all the way up to visit the flag and spend some time there along with a moment of silence for those that paid the ultimate sacrifice for us and our freedom. It was however to my dismay a flag that was torn but still flown proudly on such a day.

If there's anything that I can do to help get this rectified in removing this torn flag and replacing it please reach out to me. I love looking up at Mt. Rubidoux to see a US Flag proudly being flown however, never a torn or tattered one. I thank you for your time and all that you do for the residents of the city.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Rizo
Cell : [\(626\) 646-9141](tel:6266469141)
Email : Jonathan.p.rizo@gmail.com

From: Mark Hixson [<mailto:clnmeh@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 5:06 PM

To: Phillips, Julie

Subject: [External] Re: Bergamont Park

Dear Julie,

I want to thank you so very much for responding to my letter concerning Bergamont park. To be forthright, i actually did not think i would even receive an acknowledgment of receipt let alone an actual full length reply with direct responses to my concerns. It is down roght discouraging to see what people do to things, imagine someone taking a chain saw to a park, despicable. As i said i understand the drought and the water restrictions are making things difficult so i appreciate all the efforts you and your staff are making to maintain what we have with the little we have. Thank you may not be much but it is heart felt and i what you to know your work in the background is making a difference. Mark

On Tuesday, May 31, 2016 3:19 PM, "Phillips, Julie" <JPhillips@riversideca.gov> wrote:

Hello Mark,

I met with our Landscape Inspector to discuss your concerns about the trees and grass at Bergamont Park.

The Inspector confirmed that we have lost trees at the park due to wind, disease, and vandalism (someone used a chain saw to cut down a tree this past weekend). These trees will be replaced once the hot summer months are over as planting in the fall will give the trees a better chance of a long and healthy life.

With regards to your concerns about watering the grass, due to the drought we have been mandated to reduce water consumption in the parks by 25%. In order to accomplish this goal we installed a new 'smart' irrigation controller that we are currently fine tuning to take into account many factors including weather, soil type, and sprinkler heads and nozzle sizes. Because we can only water three days a week and must end by 8:00 a.m. we are having dry areas. We have made and will continue to make adjustments in anticipation of higher temperatures, but as we are doing our part to reduce water consumption there may be times where the turf will be stressed.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns with us and your patience while we work through issues with the new irrigation controller. It is our goal to make Riverside parks a place you enjoy visiting.

Thank you for contacting the City of Riverside and please let me know if you have any further questions.

Julie Phillips

Accounting Technician
City of Riverside

Parks, Recreation & Community Services Dept.
(951) 351-6381

From: Mark [<mailto:clnmeh@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 4:28 PM
To: Ocampo, Mayra
Subject: [External] Bergamot park

I am wrong to inquire why Bergamot park is not being properly maintained. In the last 3 months 5 to 6 healthy trees have been removed and not replaced and in the last 12 months the number approaches 12 trees removed and not replaced. Then there is the grass being allowed to die. at first glance it may look green and alive but it has large brown spots where the grass is dead and giving way to dirt. Whereas in the past I would see the water in the morning now I rarely ever see it on. This of course explains the dying grass. It now is getting to the point that water may not be enough to revive the grass. It will probably need to be reseeded. I realize a drought is ongoing but certainly there is other places to cut back besides our parks. For instance fountains.

Concerned citizen Mark

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone