



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: AUGUST 8, 2016**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE VOCATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AND THE VOLUNTEERS IN PRACTICE

ISSUE:

Receive and file an update on the volunteer opportunities available through the Department with the Vocational Internship Program and the enhanced VolunTeens In Practice.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission provide feedback, and receive the report for file.

BACKGROUND:

Through the Human Resources Department, the City of Riverside seeks volunteers to participate in the Municipal Volunteer Program. This program gives citizens an opportunity to learn about City government and operations, to form mutual partnerships with City staff, and to build community relations. The Human Resources Department developed a standard volunteer application and works with each department in the recruitment, coordination, and processing of volunteers.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) utilizes volunteers to augment services that provide significant benefits to the City. For example, volunteers spend many hours coaching youth sports, answering phones, removing graffiti, teaching classes, picking up litter, cleaning parks and trails, working with adults, seniors, and children at PRCSD centers, and assisting with special events. Volunteer opportunities range from one-day events to long-term experiences, and from individual to group activities. The volunteer programs connect residents with City staff, bringing with them new energy, ideas, and an opportunity to improve community relations.

This summer, staff enhanced the department's volunteer opportunities by combining the resources of the Community Services Division's Vocational Internship Program with the new VolunTeens In Practice program. Job Developer, Terence Berry, Recreation Services Coordinator, Jovan Fontenot, and part-time Recreation Leader/former intern, Daniel Castaneda, worked together to coordinate and provide strategic recommendations and decisions with the input of their superiors and colleagues, to recruit, train, supervise, and evaluate the volunteers, and to assess the program. The day-to-day supervision of volunteers is conducted by designated staff at each program site.

These programs also benefit the volunteers because of the job skills learned and experience gained. Staff provide volunteers with workshops and training that include conflict resolution, money management, First Aid and CPR, food handling, water safety, resume writing, job readiness, and

interviewing skills.

During FY 2015-2016, an estimated 600 individuals ages 14 - 24 years volunteered more than 26,000 hours. The number of hours is just one measure of how we value volunteer efforts; however, measuring achievements is another useful metric. (e.g., number of customers helped within the community center, tons of litter picked-up, number of children attending swim lessons, day camps, sports, miles of curbs painted, number of trees planted, and number of meals served, to name a few).

Overall, volunteer opportunities available through the Vocational Internship Program and the enhanced VolunTeens In Practice program serve to mutually benefit the City and the individuals who volunteer their time and energy to the department's mission. PRCSD looks forward to the continued success of these partnerships.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Attachment: Presentation