



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: JULY 19, 2021**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT VIDEO

ISSUE:

Presentation of the programs and services of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department meeting the objective that "Parks Make Life Better".

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive a report providing an overview of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) provides an array of programs and services to enhance the lives of the residents of Riverside. Staff pride themselves in 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 and much more.

DISCUSSION:

The presentation includes the Department's efforts as it navigated through several obstacles. Over the last year, PRCSD was challenged in a way never before experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges, the Team came together and continued to provide the community with much needed services and resources in order to support the mental and physical wellbeing of the residents.

Numerous virtual and drive thru events along with citywide food distributions were implemented. Below is a highlight of the positive impacts the Department had on the community:

- PRCSD assisted with 50+ blood drives that provided over 1K lifesaving donations, which were distributed to local hospitals.
- Over 42K participants in virtual and in-person classes as well as special events.
- The Wellness Vehicle conducted over 40 pop-ups at different parks throughout the City, serving over 2K participants.

- Project BRIDGE served 500+ low income teens by providing resources and collaborating with local partners for the intervention and deterrence of gang violence. Project BRIDGE also started a podcast, which has been very well received by local teens.
- PRCSD provided nine COVID-19 testing sites and assisted with staffing.
- PRCSD issued over 5K curbside boxes (for seniors, adults, youth, and toddlers) filled with craft materials and/or workout equipment for residents to enjoy from the safety of their home.
- Senior centers served over 150K meals to decrease food insecurity amongst this population. In addition, food distributions were held weekly at Bobby Bonds Park, Patterson Park, Bryant Park and Bordwell Park serving 850 families per week.
- In total, over 220K participants were served across all services and classes that PRCSD programmed.

During “Parks Make Life Better” month, the Department would like to recognize the 2020 PRCSD Employees of the Year: Recreation Supervisors Jessica Ochoa and Anthony Zamora; and Park Supervisors Jacob Schwerdt and Jarin Valencia. Plus, the recipient of the 2020 Director’s Challenge Award, Noemi Lopez, Recreation Superintendent. These Team Members significantly lead the Department during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, and they continued to show their passion in parks maintenance and recreational programming.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

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Attachment: Video Presentation