

APPROVED
JUN 06 2012

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 12-166

DATE June 6, 2012

**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. Various

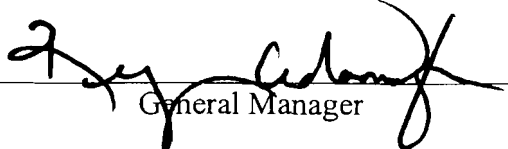
BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DONATION OF FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE NATASHA WATLEY FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF A DEPARTMENT-OPERATED GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE AT NINE PARK SITES

R. Adams
H. Fujita
*V. Israel



K. Regan _____
M. Shull _____
N. Williams _____



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Accept a donation from the Natasha Watley Foundation (Foundation) valued at approximately \$15,721, as detailed in the Summary of this Report, with appropriate recognition given to the donor; and,
2. Direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to deposit the cash portion of the donation into Fund No. 301/88 RBI Account MRPXX322, the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) fund.

SUMMARY:

In 2011, the Foundation provided to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) in-kind donations valued at \$14,900 and \$2,475 in cash for the implementation of a youth girls softball league.

For 2012, the Foundation proposes to donate the following: sports uniforms with an estimated value of \$5,361, softball equipment with an estimated value of \$2,160, cash in the amount of \$1,200 to pay for umpires, and in-kind services in the form of a Coach Mentor Program. The Coach Mentor Program, as further explained below, is a service provided by the Foundation at no cost to the Department with a value of approximately \$6,000. The Foundation will also provide manuals and other materials with an approximate value of \$1,000, providing guidelines for the implementation of a successful youth girls softball league at nine City parks, for an estimated total donation valued at \$15,721.

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The Natasha Watley Softball League (League) has been in existence since 2008. The League has grown over the past three years. In 2011, the League consisted of 14 teams at 12 recreation centers located in the Pacific Region: Algin Sutton, Baldwin Hills, Central, Green Meadows, Imperial Courts, Jackie Tatum/Harvard; Jordan Downs; Mount Carmel; Rosecrans; Ross Snyder; Van Ness; and William Nickerson Gardens. Over 180 girls between the ages of eight and twelve participated in the League. The 2011 League was the first year the Foundation became involved in the League; and with the Foundation's help, the League was a big success. In order to contribute to the League's success, the Foundation added two new components to the League: the Coach Mentor Program; and an Essay Contest. The Coach Mentor Program matches top female athletes from universities nationwide with each of the participating recreation centers. Coach Mentors not only coach but also teach the "Four Points of the Diamond" – discipline, dedication, dignity and duty. With the help of the Coach Mentors, each player is given the opportunity to write an essay based on the core values of character and the Four Points of the Diamond. The contest winner and a chaperone are given the opportunity to attend the National Pro Fast Pitch Championship Game in Sulphur, Louisiana, and participate in softball clinics taught by top female athletes, with all expenses paid by the Foundation.

The Foundation was founded by two-time Olympic softball medalist Natasha Watley to create opportunities for girls in underserved communities, so that they may learn and play the game of softball. The Foundation desires to see young women whose financial resources are limited, be able to train, develop, and compete in a high-quality softball league.

The League is a summer program that takes place this year from June through August, 2012. This year's League consists of 12 teams representing nine recreation centers and their respective communities. Opening Day will be held on June 6, 2012, at Algin Sutton Recreation Center. Games begin June 12 and end on or about August 16, 2012. Each team will play eight games. All games will be played on Thursday evenings. RAP will conduct all administrative functions related to the program, such as promoting the League, recruiting and registering players, providing assistant coaches who will assist with weekly practices, providing players with transportation to and from games as needed, and hosting the opening and closing ceremonies using the registration fees collected from player participation to pay related expenses.

The Foundation will enhance the League experience with activities such as the Coach Mentor program and Essay Contest. Other than requiring that the donated funds and equipment be used for the implementation of the League at participating parks in the Pacific Region, the Foundation is asking for nothing in return. Upon receipt and deposit of the funds into the RBI MRP Account MRPXX322, RAP will have full control of the funds through its Pacific Region for the operation of the League.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Acceptance of this donation results in no impact to the Department's General Fund, but rather will supplement the payment of Program related expenses, as RAP does not have the necessary funding or resources to conduct these youth programs at the same level without assistance from supporters like the Foundation.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst, and Chinyere Stoneham, Senior Recreation Director II, Partnership Division.