

APPROVED
AUG 08 2018

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 18-149

DATE August 8, 2018

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DONATION FROM THE NATASHA WATLEY FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF
A DEPARTMENT OPERATED GIRLS SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUE AT
EIGHTEEN PARK SITES

AP Diaz	_____	*V. Israel	_____
R. Barajas	_____	S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved x Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accept a donation from the Natasha Watley Foundation (NWF), consisting of cash and in-kind services, with a total estimated value of Sixty Thousand, One Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$60,170.00), in support of the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) operation of the 2018 Natasha Watley Summer Softball League (League), and direct that appropriate recognition be given to NWF; and,
2. Direct RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to deposit in the established Sports Organization Account under Fund 302, Department 89, Account 89703H, Sub-Account NW, all funds received from the NWF for the League, and to authorize the payment of League-related expenses from said Sub-Account.

SUMMARY

NWF was founded by two-time Olympic softball medalist Natasha Watley to create softball-based developmental opportunities for girls in underserved communities in order for the participants to learn the game of softball and valuable life-skills. NWF seeks young women whose financial resources are limited and to provide them with the opportunity to train, develop, and compete in a high-quality softball league such as the "Natasha Watley Softball League" (NWSL) in which they will be guided by the League's Coach Mentor Program (CMP).

As part of RAP's ongoing collaborative operation of the League, NWF will donate the following for the 2018 summer season: cash in the amount of Three Thousand, Four Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$3,465.00) for the payment of umpire fees; equipment, and in-kind services in the form of a Coach Mentor Program (CMP) with an estimated value of up to Fifty-Six Thousand, Seven Hundred Five Dollars (\$56,705.00). The collective value of NWF's contribution to the League is estimated to be Sixty Thousand, One Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$60,170.00).

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The 2018 Summer Softball League will be the eleventh year of the League's operation and the seventh year of CMP and associated Essay Contest. CMP 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, players between the ages of 11 to 15 (eleven to fifteen) are given the opportunity to write an essay based on the core values of character and the Four Points of the Diamond.

The 2018 League consists of twenty-two (22) teams representing twelve (12) Recreation Centers from the Pacific Region and six (6) teams from six (6) Recreation Centers in the Valley Region and their respective communities. This is the first year NWSL has expanded outside of South Los Angeles. Participating recreation centers from the Pacific Region include Baldwin Hills, Central, Denker, Gilbert Lindsay, Green Meadows, Jackie Tatum Harvard, Jim Gilliam, Martin Luther King Jr., Ross Snyder, St. Andrews, Van Ness, and Wilmington. Valley Region recreation centers include Branford, David M. Gonzales/Pacoima, Fernangeles, North Hollywood, Ritchie Valens and Sylmar.

The 2018 League Opening Day Ceremonies were held on June 10, 2018, at Gilbert Lindsay Recreation Center for the Pacific Region teams and at Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex for the Valley Region Teams. Games began in June, and will end early August.

RAP will conduct all administrative functions related to the program, such as promoting the League, recruiting and registering players, providing head or assistant coaches who will assist with weekly practices, and hosting the opening and closing ceremonies.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

This Report was prepared by Chinyere Stoneham, Recreation Supervisor, CLASS Parks, Metro Region.