

Agenda Report

DATE: March 19, 2001

TO: CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF FUNDING AND POSITIONS FOR PARK SECURITY RANGERS AND EXPANSION OF AFTERSCHOOL RECREATION PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve the addition of six full-time Community Service Officer II positions and one Sergeant position in the Police Department and direct the City Manager to include the funds necessary for the Park Security Ranger program in the Recommended Fiscal Year 2002 budget;
2. Approve the addition of 0.69 Recreation Leader and 0.228 Site Coordinator positions in the Human Services, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department budget to expand afterschool recreation programs and direct the City Manager to include the funds necessary for this program in the Recommended Fiscal Year 2002 budget.

BACKGROUND:

In 1998 City staff developed the framework for a Public Safety Plan that would anticipate and address changing needs for service as the community grows and changes. To develop the framework, staff reviewed projections for population, demographic shifts, crime trends, the economy and other factors that might impact future service needs. This framework was then presented at community meetings for residents and businesses to help develop a plan. As a result of these meetings, a Public Safety Plan was drafted that included 17 specific programs to enhance public safety.

Four components of the plan have been identified as current priorities and are recommended for implementation as Phase I. These programs include the creation of a park security ranger program, the addition of code enforcement staff, funding for domestic violence prevention/intervention, and funding to expand after school recreation programs. Staff believes that these programs respond to critical needs within the community and recommends

implementation of all four in Fiscal Year 2002. However, in order put staff in place for the coming summer season, it is necessary to begin recruitment now.

On March 19, 2001, the Public Safety Committee reviewed staff recommendations for the implementation of these four programs. The Committee recommended that the implementation of the park security ranger program and the afterschool program be forwarded to City Council immediately rather than being presented during the FY02 budget discussion in May.

Park Security Program

The park security rangers will protect park property and facilities, enforce park rules and regulations, and provide a uniformed presence to make parks safer. Components of the program include six ranger positions and one supervisor, vehicles (including maintenance, fuel, and replacement costs), radios, and uniforms. Total budget for Fiscal Year 2002, which will include the purchase of four vehicles, will be \$631,488. The ongoing annual costs will be \$511,488.

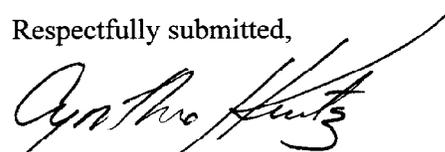
Afterschool Recreation Program

The absence of safe, supervised, affordable opportunities for school-age children during extended school breaks (summer, winter holidays, spring break) puts youth at high risk for negative behavior during such times. The After School Playground program currently serves children at 16 elementary school sites for up to three hours after each school day. However, only three sites provide services during the summer and none provide service during winter break and spring break. Staff is recommending an increase to the program to add three sites with summer service. Total annual costs include two recreation leaders and one site coordinator for each site, plus supplies, for a total cost for \$32,322.

FISCAL IMPACT:

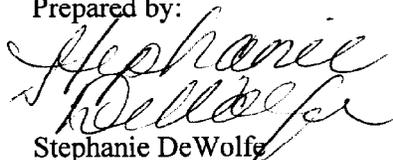
Staff is anticipating that sufficient funds will be available in the Fiscal Year 2002 Operating Budget to cover the cost of \$663,810 during Fiscal Year 2002. Total costs for the remaining Public Safety Plan recommendations will be \$177,527 and will be presented during the budget process.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz,
City Manager

Prepared by:



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