

Agenda Report

TO: City Council March 1, 1999

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Priority City Projects for Submission to Assemblyman Jack Scott for Potential Inclusion in State Budget

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council support and forward to Assemblyman Jack Scott the following three projects for potential funding during the State budget process: Walkway Security Lighting for Central Park; Walkway Security Lighting for Memorial Park; and Computer and Information Literacy for Children and Youth.

BACKGROUND

Assemblyman Jack Scott contacted Pasadena to inquire about the existence of high priority projects that he could potentially champion for funding through the State's budget process. Using the City Council's seven goals as a guide, staff has identified three priority projects for submission to Assemblyman Scott.

The first two projects, Walkway Security Lighting for Central Park and Walkway Security Lighting for Memorial Park would add security lighting for walkways at these two vital community parks. These two projects address two City Council goals, "Focus on planning, programming and reinvesting in our parks and parklands" and "Assure a safe and secure community". The cost of each lighting project is \$150,000. The third project, Computer and information Literacy for Children and Youth, addresses the Council goal to "Support our public schools". The cost of this project is \$156,000.

Both Central Park and Memorial Park are important parks located in the City's downtown area. Both parks annually serve as hosts to major community and special events and are close to future light rail stations. Both parks are also located near large housing complexes and are used by families with children. Public safety issues are addressed when parks are well lit and people feel comfortable traveling through them.

Walkway Security Lighting for Central Park - \$150,000

The walkway security lighting project for Central Park is currently an unfunded project in the City's Capital Improvement Program budget. This item is also part of the approved master plan for Central Park. If funding is received for this project, 25 lighting fixtures will be installed in the north end of the park near the recently renovated the tot lot. El Centro de Accion Social and the Lawn Bowling Club are both housed in Central Park. El Central is a community based organization supporting youth through recreation and tutoring programs and the Lawn Bowling Club's membership consists mainly of senior citizens.

Walkway Security Lighting for Memorial Park - \$150,000

Similar to Central Park, the walkway security lighting project for Memorial Park is currently an unfunded project in the City's Capital Improvement Program budget and is part of the approved master plan for the park. This funding request would install lighting on the walkways along Holly Street, Raymond Ave. and at the entrances along Walnut Street. Pasadena's Senior Center is located in Memorial Park and this lighting will increase the safety of seniors traveling through the park to get the senior center. This park is also considered the "back yard" for residents in the Holly Street Village apartments.

Pasadena Public Library Computer and Information Literacy for Children and Youth - \$156,000

The Pasadena Public Library remains committed to providing innovative services for children and youth in Pasadena and to addressing the City Council's goal to "support our public schools". The Library places special emphasis on programs and services which are designed to enhance computer and information literacy skills. Toward that end the Library proposes to expand key technological resources at the Central and Neighborhood Libraries which support the needs of this growing segment of the community through Learning Enrichment Centers and Kid's Catalog.

Learning Enrichment Centers are multi-media workstations equipped with CD-ROM encyclopedias and educational software titles that are designed to promote reading language, math, social studies and computer skills. The Library currently operates 11 Learning Enrichment Centers located at the Central and Neighborhood Libraries. These units fill a critical need for young people in the community who do not have access to computers in their own homes. Unfortunately, resource limitations have prevented the deployment of Learning Enrichment Centers in sufficient quantities to meet community demand. However, the addition of 14 new multimedia computers, coupled with the deployment of LEC focused CD-ROM servers at each facility will double capacity.

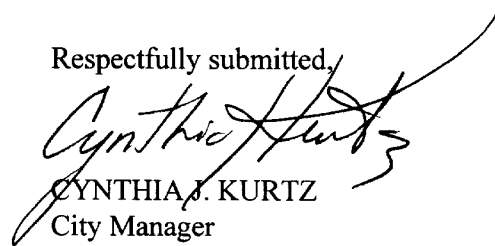
Kid's Catalog software provides a colorful point and click graphical interface which makes searching the online catalog both fun and easy. The software can be easily customized to reduce the problems that children and young adults experience when

searching the text-based online catalog. There are two Kid's Catalog workstations located in the Children's Room at the Central Library, which have been very well received by users. The deployment of Kid's Catalog software on a greater number of computers located at the Central and Neighborhood Libraries will be of great benefit to children who might otherwise be unable to locate needed resources using the standard online catalog search interface.

FISCAL IMPACT

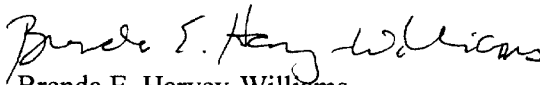
If successful, approximately \$450,000 could be awarded to the City to implement three very vital and important City projects. If funding is received, staff will return to the City Council for appropriation of funds to the appropriate budget accounts.

Respectfully submitted,



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