



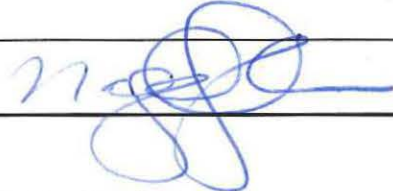
Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Councilmember Carrasco

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 20, 2015

Approved  Date 5.20.15

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: **FAMILY CAMP EXPERIENCE FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES**

Amount of City Funding Required: \$23,383

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): Essential Services Reserve

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Proposal Description, including anticipated outcomes (describe how change would affect services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc.):

When looking back over ones childhood many of us are fortunate enough to remember family vacations, picnics, and camping trips as important to family recreation, relationships, and precious memories. Camping offers families the benefit of relaxed recreation time in the midst of a natural setting. Easily overlooked are the many low-income families without the financial or transportation means to make such experiences possible. For these families, who are making necessary but difficult financial choices, their financial priorities do not include vacations of any kind since basic staples of every-day life such as housing, food, and clothing take priority. Camping provides a memorable and often transformative experience for kids and parents alike, while providing both physical and emotional benefits.

Camping encourages children and parents to exercise, participating in camping-related activities like hiking, boating, and playing games outdoors. In a time when everyone from Michelle Obama to the City of San Jose is promoting programs to encourage children to go outside and burn some calories, we should not overlook outdoor activities that take families beyond the City limits and where it requires physical exertion just to set up the place where you're going to sleep for the night.

An obvious benefit for our low-income families is getting to experience nature and the outdoors in a more immediate and intimate way than they're likely to get walking down the street. Early positive exposure to nature can set a child down the path to a lifelong love of nature which drives their stewardship not just of the woods but also of their backyards, neighborhoods, parks, and even waterways.

Camping also improves family bonds and relationships, providing an opportunity for mental restoration. Low-income families are proven to experience more stress than their more comfortable counterparts and the time together as a family, without other demands, provides an opportunity for them to get to know each other better without the modern-day distractions. In addition, the cooperation required to set up and maintain a camp site encourages community, gives parents and kids new skills to learn and practice, and fosters communication.

The peaceful relaxing setting allows families to take a break from the noises of the city and the pollution and they can gain a new excitement and fascination with the environment. Our low income families are missing out on this great experience.

I strongly recommend that \$23,383 be dedicated for these purposes stated above, from the Essential Services Reserve.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve (\$2 million)

Other (Program/Project/Fund):

Department or Organization: Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

Department or Organization Contact (list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation):

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