



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Councilmember

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: 5/23/2017

Approved

San Diego

Date

5/24/17

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: 1 (FTE) for Senior Programming at Roosevelt, Southside, Evergreen, Berryessa, MayFair, and Willow Glen Community Centers.

Amount of City Funding Required: \$78,381

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

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.):

This is a proposal to fund a full-time specialized Recreation Program Specialist to manage senior programming at the most high-traffic, high-need community centers: Roosevelt, Southside, Evergreen, Berryessa, MayFair, and Willow Glen Community Centers. (Council Districts 3, 2, 8, 4, 5 and 6).

More than a decade ago, the City of San Jose employed case managers based at community centers who helped older adults navigate social services and programs available to seniors. However, these staff positions were cut during the recession. Staffing levels at City community centers have never quite rebounded from recession-era cuts and are in jeopardy of further reductions as there are funding shifts for key positions in the City's Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department.

Current Recreation Specialists lack the knowledge and expertise necessary to address the various health and social service needs of older adults. Recreation Program Specialists who specialize in Senior Services are key to a continuum of services at community centers with senior programming. A full-time Recreation Program Specialist's duties would include managing the Senior Nutrition and Resource Programs at the sites

listed above. While the "Recreation Program Specialist" classification is a more generalist classification, PRNS will include gerontologist-specific competencies, interests, and experience as criteria for candidate selection upon approval of the proposal.

In FY 2015-16, the top six highest-traffic City of San Jose-operated Senior Nutrition Program sites --- Berryessa, Evergreen, Roosevelt, MayFair, Willow Glen and Southside Community Centers served more than 150,000 Senior Nutrition Program Congregate Meals, indicating strong utilization of the community centers by older adults.

Earlier this year, the City of San Jose was formally designated an Age-Friendly Community by the World Health Organization. Recreation Program Specialists for Senior Services can help address many of the City's top Age-Friendly priorities, including reducing social isolation, creating a tool box of senior resources, and providing important community support and health services information related to caregiving and elder abuse. A Recreation Program Specialist dedicated specifically to senior services would increase staff support at each of these community centers and increase support for the seniors that utilize them.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve (\$2 million)

Other (Program/Project/Fund)

Department or Organization: Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services

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

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