



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR LICCARDO

**FROM:** Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

**SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT**

**DATE:** May 22, 2019

Approved

Date

5/22/2019

## RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

### Proposal

Program/Project Title: Welch Park and Eastridge Recreation

Amount of City Funding Required: \$174,479

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

This change is:

One-time       Ongoing

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

The Welch Community Center was a hub and place for youth to attend programming. Since the Community Center was under reuse it remained underutilized by the contracted group. This underutilization of the Welch Community center added to the vagrancy problems and negative incidents at the park.

After years of growing concern and community activism, Welch Community Center was reopened in March of this year. It is part of a coordinated effort between PRNS's recreation team, park activation team, and Project Hope Team, as well as Police, First 5, the County, the neighborhood association, and many others. The reopening involved capital funding and dedicated operations funding. Before this coordinated effort, many families avoided the park due to constant public safety issues including drug use in the bathrooms, prostitution, belligerent vagrant behavior and gang activity.

At the same time, my office worked to bring together Eastridge Mall and PRNS which has resulted in an innovative collaboration where Eastridge Mall has committed to free access to their community room for PRNS with the city providing programming at the Mall. This underutilized used room is now a thriving

community room and teen center, providing services at one of the most accessible locations in Evergreen and the East Side

Through our partnership with Eastridge Mall, we have brought teen services, camps, and children's classes to the northern and western parts of District 8. As the Welch Center renovation has completed, additional services are currently finally returning to Welch Center - including camp this summer. And the park is safer than it has been in memory. As an extra benefit, both sites are able to supplement the programming of Evergreen Community Center, which is booked to capacity already and cannot support more classes due to its size.

However, the programming at both sites is funded with one-time money from the Essential Services Reserve. It will need to be requested again each year. This is that request – as well as a request for a dedicated allocation of 100% scholarships to make this programming equitably accessible to low income families with children and youth who are at most risk.

As the mayor discussed with the Council and PRNS staff at the Neighborhood Services CSA Study Session, too often PRNS services are not accessible to those who need them most, due to their cost recovery model. While we work on a larger systematic and equitable approach to this, let's pilot success by providing 100% scholarships for anyone who requests a scholarship at these two locations that include some of the most poverty impacted zip codes in our city.

Here's a breakdown of the request:

- \$119,759 to sustain current staffing levels at Eastridge and Welch.
- \$54,720 to provide 100% scholarship for Camp San Jose participants at Welch Park, and any remaining funding to roll forward for fall programming at Eastridge and Welch.

Total funding is: \$174,479

### **Funding Source**

Essential Services Reserve (\$4 million): \$174,479

Other (Program/Project/Fund):

### **Department or Organization:**

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

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