



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Councilmember Esparza

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: 5/27/2021

Approved *Maya Esparza*

Date 5/27/2021

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Fair Swim Center

Amount of City Funding Required: \$215,000

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): 36

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

The Fair Swim Center opened in 2004 as a major community resource in the heart the heavily underserved Santee and Meadows Neighborhoods. Unfortunately, the Center was one of many facilities converted to reuse after the Great Recession, depriving these communities of one of their few city amenities. After many years in reuse, the center opened again as a City-run facility in 2019 with great enthusiasm from the local community. Although Covid precluded the 2020 summer season, we anticipate that when we reopen the center it will once again become a focal point of family recreation for the community.

Beautification improvements will include improved signage, gate repairs, garbage enclosure improvements, and other minor maintenance needed to ensure that Fair Swim Center remains a well-loved and utilized resource for a community where this is urgently needed.

The Fair Swim Center is located in the 95122 ZIP code, which has consistently ranked as the number one ZIP code in the entire county in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. To the immediate North of the Center is the Santee Neighborhood, which has an active Housing and Public Safety Injunction, and faces some of the worst gang violence in the entire city. This funding will bring much needed support and hope to

a weary community, and provide some of our hardest hit families with safe summer activities in an area that has seen significant increases in gang activity during this pandemic.

I recommend the use of Citywide C&C Funds for this work. These same families that have suffered the most due to Covid have suffered the greatest impacts of our digital divide, as well as increases in violence during the pandemic, and this project promotes healthy activities for these families in this overcrowded neighborhood which lacks open space. Although Fair Swim Center is not the only swim center in the city, it is one of only four that the city runs, and one of two city-operated centers that serve almost exclusively communities that are among the city's poorest and most underserved. Communities like Santee and Meadows chronically lack development and thus Park Trust funding, and reside in Council Districts like District 7 which have chronically stretched District C&C Tax funds as a result. This geographic reliance on development to provide sufficient funding for parks facilities is inherently inequitable, and is exactly the issue that we need to overcome if we are to allocate our budget with an equity lens. To that end, supporting this work through our Citywide C&C Tax funds represents a small but important step toward a more equitable budget allocation, and one that will make an enormous difference in a community that needs it.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve: \$215,000

Other (Please specify program/project/fund): \$215,000 Citywide C&C Funds

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

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