



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO
SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

FROM: Councilmember Esparza
DATE: 5/27/2021

Approved *Maya Esparza*

Date 5/27/2021

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Free Citywide Recreational Swim and Swim Lesson Scholarships

Amount of City Funding Required: \$25,635

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): 68

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 past year has placed an incredible strain on so many families, from the virus itself, economic hardships and lost jobs, and the stress of distance learning and school closures. In many communities, this enormous collective trauma has manifested itself through increases in violence, including domestic violence and gang violence. As we look to open back up, and help our communities recover physically, economically, and psychologically, a key element of this work will be providing positive activities and opportunities for our families.

This proposal funds free recreational swimming at each of our four City-operated pool facilities for the next year, covering Mayfair Pool, Camden Pool, Rotary Ryland Pool, and Fair Swim Center. Of these facilities, typically only Camden is funded year-round. Given the urgent need in so many of our communities, this proposal extends this funding, on a one-time basis, to all of our city-run swimming facilities, which means forgoing an estimated \$15,000 in revenue. This proposal also provides \$10,635 to extend coverage of up to 709 Swim Lesson Scholarships from 75% to 100% of the costs, giving families who are stretched to their limits an opportunity to provide swim lessons for

their children. There are still many food distribution sites with residents waiting hours for food, so this help will make the difference for many families to be able to enroll.

As part of this proposal, we ask PRNS to explore strategies to recruit and hire lifeguards from the local communities. This will provide employment opportunities for young people in many communities, including those around the Mayfair and Fair Swim Centers which lie in some of the areas most severely impacted by both the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

This funding will provide positive activities, activation, and employment opportunities throughout our city, including many of the communities that have endured the worst of the past year. This activation will help our struggling families, help reduce violence in our communities, and provide equitable access to our swimming facilities and swimming lessons for the next year during our recovery.

Use of available ARP funds is consistent with Treasury guidance on promoting healthy childhood environments. The Interim Final Rule notes that “Children’s economic and family circumstances have a long-term impact on their future economic outcomes. Increases in economic hardship, material insecurity, and parental stress and behavioral health challenges all raise the risk of long-term harms to today’s children due to the pandemic,”¹ and provides that “Given the exacerbation of health disparities during the pandemic and the role of pre-existing social vulnerabilities in driving these disparate outcomes, services to address health disparities are presumed to be responsive to the public health impacts of the pandemic. Specifically, recipients may use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to facilitate access to resources that improve health outcomes, including services that...build healthier environments.”² Providing access to free swim and free swim lessons to many of our most impacted children and families serves to do just that.

Funding Source

Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):_\$25,635 in ARP funding

Department or Organization Contact

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

¹ Page 36, Interim Final Rule on Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Dept. of Treasury. <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2021-10283.pdf>

² Page 20, Interim Final Rule on Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Dept. of Treasury. . <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2021-10283.pdf>

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