

APPROVED
07-13-2016

BOARD OF RECREATION
OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON

BOARD REPORT

NO. 16-151

DATE: July 13, 2016

C.D. Various

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP DIVISION – DONATION FROM THE NATASHA WATLEY FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF A DEPARTMENT OPERATED GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE AT NINE PARK SITES

AP Diaz	_____	*V. Israel	_____
R. Barajas	_____	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accept a donation from the Natasha Watley Foundation (NWF), consisting of cash and funding, uniforms, equipment, and in-kind services, with a total estimated value of Seventeen Thousand, Seven Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$17,771.00), in support of the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) operation of the 2016 Natasha Watley Softball League (League), and that appropriate recognition be given to NWF; and,
2. Direct the RAP Chief Accounting Employee to deposit in the established Sports Organization Account under Fund 302, Department 89, Account 89703H, Sub-Account NW, all funds received from the NWF for the League, and to authorize the payment of League-related expenses from said Sub-Account.

SUMMARY

The NWF was founded by two-time Olympic softball medalist Natasha Watley to create softball-based developmental opportunities for girls in underserved communities so they can learn the game of softball and valuable life-skills. The NWF seeks young women whose financial resources are limited and to provide them with the opportunity to train, develop, and compete in a high-quality softball league such as the "Natasha Watley Softball League" in which they will be guided by the League's Coach Mentor Program (CMP).

As part of RAP's ongoing collaborative operation of the League with the NWF, NWF donates the following for the 2016 summer season: sports uniforms with an estimated value of Seven Thousand, Four Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$7,471.00); cash in the amount of One Thousand, Five Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$1,560.00) for the payment of umpire fees; softball equipment with an estimated value of Two Thousand, Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$2,740.00); and in-kind services in the form of a Coach Mentor Program (CMP) with an estimated value of

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up to \$6,000.00. The collective value of the NWF's contribution to the League is estimated to be Seventeen Thousand, Seven Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$17,771.00).

The 2016 Summer League will be the ninth year of the League's operation and the fifth year of the CMP and associated Essay Contest. The NWF has supported the League every year with financial and in-kind contributions since 2011. In 2015, the league consisted of two divisions/age groups: ages 8-10 (eight to ten) and ages 11-12 (eleven to twelve).

The CMP matches top female athletes from universities nationwide with each of the participating recreation centers. Coach Mentors not only coach but also teach the "Four Points of the Diamond" – discipline, dedication, dignity, and duty. With the help of the Coach Mentors, players between the ages of 11 to 12 (eleven to twelve) are given the opportunity to write an essay based on the core values of character and the Four Points of the Diamond. The 2015 essay contest winner, Jocelyn Montes De Oca from Algin Sutton Recreation Center, and a chaperone attended the National Pro Fast Pitch Championship Game in Hoover, Alabama, and participated in softball clinics taught by top female athletes, with all expenses paid by the NWF.

The 2016 League will consist of fourteen (14) teams representing nine Recreation Centers and their respective communities. Recreation Centers include Baldwin Hills, Central, Green Meadows, Harbor City, Imperial Courts, Jackie Tatum Harvard, Martin Luther King Jr., Ross Snyder and Van Ness. The 2016 League Opening Day was held on June 21, 2016, at Van Ness Recreation Center. Games began on June 28, 2016, and will end in mid-August. Each team will play eight games. RAP will conduct all administrative functions related to the program, such as promoting the League, recruiting and registering players, providing head or assistant coaches who will assist with weekly practices, and hosting the opening and closing ceremonies.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Acceptance of this donation results in no impact to RAP's General Fund, but rather supplements the payment of League-related expenses, as RAP does not have the funding resources necessary to conduct these youth programs at the same level, without assistance from supporters like the NWF.

This Report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Senior Management Analyst II, and Chinyere Stoneham, Senior Recreation Director II, Partnership Division.