



FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2015 DEC 30 **AGENDA REPORT**

TO: Sabrina B. Landreth
City Administrator

FROM: Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Director, OPR

SUBJECT: Recreational Therapy Internship
Programs for Oakland Parks and
Recreation

DATE: December 21, 2015

City Administrator Approval

Date:

12/29/15

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution To Authorize The City Administrator To Enter Into An Agreement With California State University, Sacramento And An Agreement With California State University, East Bay For Recreational Therapy Internship Programs For A Term Of Five Years Each.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adoption of the proposed resolution will authorize the City Administrator to enter into agreements with California State University, Sacramento and California State University, East Bay for Recreational Therapy Internship Programs with Oakland Parks and Recreation (OPR). The internship programs will allow qualified students working towards obtaining their Bachelor's Degree in Recreation and Certification in Recreational Therapy the opportunity to gain work experience under supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreational Specialist. Student Internships must be full-time, 40 hours a week for a minimum of 14 weeks for a total of 560 hours.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Established in 2001, OPR's Inclusion Center serves youth with and without disabilities and serves as a departmental liaison to the City of Oakland's Americans with Disability Act (ADA) unit. The Inclusion Center currently operates five parent-toddler preschool playgroups, in addition to elementary and teen afterschool and out of school programs, Special Olympics softball and golf programs, and numerous community events. With the support of Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) vendorization, youth with functional needs are integrated into mainstream programs and the Inclusion Center works closely with the Oakland Unified School District's parent advisory group (for youth with functional needs).

According to the American Therapeutic Recreation Association, recreational therapy is a treatment service designed to restore, remediate, and rehabilitate a person's level of functioning

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Life Enrichment Committee
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and independence in life activities. Recreational therapy promotes health and wellness as well as reduces or eliminates the activity limitations and restrictions to participation in life situations caused by an illness or disabling condition. Recreational therapists work with clients to restore motor, social, and cognitive functioning, build confidence, develop coping skills, and integrate skills learned in treatment settings into community settings. Intervention areas vary widely and are based upon client interests. Examples of intervention modalities include creative arts (e.g., crafts, music, dance, drama, among others), sports, adventure programming, dance/movement, and leisure education.

In the context of OPR, recreational therapy services have been used to help patrons with disabilities participate in recreation programs throughout the City, including providing inclusive recreation programs for youth with disabilities to participate with their peers, modifications to programming, physical accommodations, and ADA services at Oakland Parks and Recreation special events. The client base served includes children diagnosed along the autism spectrum. As available services for children with disabilities diminish and prices for services rise, families turn to community services, such as OPR, to be a source of care, socialization, physical and emotional growth, and wellness. The benefits of recreation include an ability to interact, practice motor skills, and have a better quality of life. In addition, recreation provides children with autism the opportunity to make choices and improves their self esteem.

California State University, Sacramento and California State University, East Bay, and OPR began to discuss the implementation of Recreational Therapy internship programs in late fall 2015. Recreational Therapy students must complete a full-time, 40 hour per week, 14 week internship in order to graduate and be eligible for recreational therapy certification. Students must intern in a facility under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. OPR's Inclusion Center staff holds the required certification and will manage the Recreational Therapy Internship Program.

With the increasing needs of Oakland's youth and community, the California State University and OPR see the internship program as an opportunity to transform students into professionals. The program will be mutually beneficial as OPR will be teaching future recreation professionals how to best serve patrons with disabilities in community recreation settings, thus improving current and future recreation programming, advancing the professionalism of OPR, and expanding OPR's services.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

At the University, students of Recreational Therapy are taught a curriculum designed to encourage creative thought, problem solving abilities, and future directed thinking. It is the belief of recreational therapy professionals that all people, regardless of physical or mental functioning, have a right to a full and productive lifestyle. A Recreational Therapy Internship program will allow students to apply their skills and abilities to provide participants with excellent recreation therapy services.

OPR's Inclusion Center will work with other recreation centers to provide opportunities for interns to utilize skills learned in the classroom in a community setting. This will not only provide special skills to OPR sites in need of recreation therapy services, interns will enter the workforce

with an abundance of experience. A vital link in recreation therapy education is the empowerment of students to encourage, teach and lead. Practitioners in the field are valuable partners in the education process and it is our responsibility to prepare future professionals to face the changing needs of the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

The California State University internship program at OPR is an unpaid program. Recreational therapy interns will be trained to work at OPR recreation centers and assist OPR staff with identifying necessary program modifications, perform individual participant observations and assessments, assist with activity planning, perform community outreach, and be an advocate for OPR and the individuals that OPR serves at no cost to the City. In addition, student interns will be part of a team that is trained to recognize and refer eligible individuals to obtain ADA services with OPR. Supervision will be provided on an ongoing basis throughout the duration of the internship by OPR's Recreation Center Director whose salary is budgeted in Fund 1010 – General Purpose Fund.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

No outreach was deemed necessary for the proposed policy action beyond the standard City Council agenda noticing procedures.

COORDINATION

This project has been coordinated with the following:

- Oakland Parks and Recreation
- OPR Inclusion Center
- Contracts and Compliance
- The Oakland City Attorney's Office
- Controller's Bureau
- California State University, Sacramento
- California State University, East Bay

PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Parks and Recreation staff supervising the Recreational Therapy Internship program is required to provide to the University a mid-term progress report and final evaluation for each student intern.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: There are no economic opportunities associated with this report.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities associated with this report.

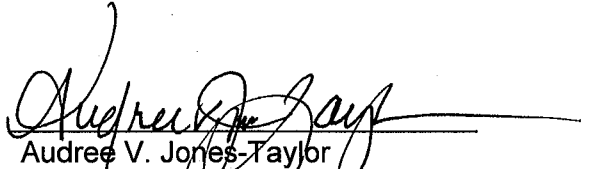
Social Equity: The Recreational Therapy Internship program will provide future recreation professionals a unique opportunity to obtain hands-on experience via serving the community of Oakland. OPR and the Universities will mutually benefit by making a Recreational Therapy Internship program available to University students because OPR will be teaching future recreation professionals how to best serve youth with disabilities in community recreation settings, thus improving current and future recreation programming, advancing the professionalism of OPR, and expanding OPR's services.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that City Council adopt a resolution to authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with California State University, Sacramento and an agreement with California State University, East Bay for Recreational Therapy Internship Programs for a term of 5 years each.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Erin Burton, Recreation Center Director, at 510-597-5064.

Respectfully submitted,


Audree V. Jones-Taylor
Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Reviewed by:
Dana Riley, Assistant to the Director

Prepared by:
Erin Burton, Recreation Center Director
Inclusion Center

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2015 DEC 30 AM 10:12

Approved as to Form and Legality

Macanlay
City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO AND AN AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY FOR RECREATIONAL THERAPY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM EACH

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation ("OPR") operates an Inclusive Social Development Program supervised by a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist employed by the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the Inclusive Social Development Program serves youth with developmental disabilities and their peers at various OPR facilities year-round; and

WHEREAS, OPR wishes to enter into agreements with California State University, Sacramento and California State University, East Bay ("Universities") for recreational therapy internship programs whereby the Universities will provide student interns to work at designated OPR recreation centers and assist OPR staff with necessary program modifications, perform individual participant observations and assessments, assist with activity planning, perform community outreach, and be an advocate for OPR and the individuals that OPR serves at no cost to the City or the Universities; and

WHEREAS, OPR and Universities will mutually benefit by making Recreational Therapy Internship programs available to University students because OPR will be teaching future recreation professionals how to best serve youth with disabilities in community recreation settings, thus improving current and future recreation programming, advancing the professionalism of OPR, and expanding OPR's services; and

WHEREAS, University students will be supervised by a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist employed by the City of Oakland for the entire duration of said Recreational Therapy Internship; and

WHEREAS, section 504(l) of the City Charter requires City Council approval for intergovernmental relations and contracts for joint governmental actions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or her designee to enter into agreements with California State University, Sacramento and California State University, East Bay for recreational therapy clinical internship programs at the OPR Inclusive Social Development Program; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That each agreement is for a five-year term from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the interns participating in the program shall be supervised by City staff at all times and their presence shall not interfere with activities at the OPR facilities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the above-referenced agreement shall be reviewed by the Office of the City Attorney and filed with the Office of the City Clerk

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL-WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLEN, KALB, KAPLAN, REID AND
PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California