

City of Culver City, California
Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: <u>12/03/13</u>		Item Number: <u>A-2</u>	
PRCS COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of Recommendation to the City Council Regarding a Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Dan Hernandez, PRCS Director		Phone Number: (310) 253-6655	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒	Attachments: ☒
Public Notification: (Email) Meetings and Agendas – Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission (11/27/13).			
Department Approval: Dan Hernandez (11/26/13)		City Attorney Approval: N/A	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: N/A		City Manager Approval: N/A	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission consider making a recommendation to the City Council regarding a PRCS Department Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure (Attachment). <u>BACKGROUND:</u> At the July 22, 2013 City Council meeting, Chair Cooper requested and received consensus from the other members of the City Council to direct the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission to explore the enhancement of our anti-bullying policy and procedure for all our park programs and facilities. Specifically, the City Council wanted the PRCS Commission to look at ways to educate those involved in the park and recreation programs regarding the issues of bullying and develop procedures by which those who do not abide by the policy would be removed from participation in our City programs. The ultimate goal is to create a bullying-free environment that promotes mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance. Based on the City Council's direction, on August 6, 2013 the Commission established the Anti-Bullying Policy Development Ad Hoc Subcommittee and appointed Chair Greene and Commissioner Stuart as members. Subsequently, the Draft Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure was presented at the October 1, 2013 Commission meeting during the Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates portion of the Agenda. Since one member of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee was unable to attend the October meeting, the Draft Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure was included at the November 19, 2013 meeting as well. However, that discussion was postponed in order to fully focus on the Community Conversation that evening.			

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On November 19, 2013 the Commission hosted a Community Conversation titled, *"Words Matter" Part II – A Discussion about Bullying and Anti-Bullying Tactics and Policies*. It was a panel discussion featuring guest speakers Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Noted Writer, Talk Show Host, MSNBC Analyst; Patrice M. Grant, Ph.D., Program Head Edelman-Westside Mental Health Center; and, Robert Sowell, Project Supervisor, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations Commission. Elena Halpert-Schilt, Assistant Executive Director, Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations, Community and Senior Services was also in attendance. The discussion, which featured audience participation, included topics such as defining "bullies" and "bullying," recent news stories about bullying and their relevance to the current culture of competition, the role of power differentials in aggressive behavior, "Restorative Justice" as an approach to reducing bullying and how members of an involved community can model positive behavior to help eradicate bullying.

DISCUSSION:

The Draft Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure submitted by the members of the Anti-Bullying Policy Development Ad Hoc Subcommittee is provided as an Attachment. Reference materials used in the creation of the document include Culver City Unified School District Board of Education Policy 5131.2(a) Bullying and the current Code of Conduct for participants in the PRCS Department's Camp Programs overseen by the Recreation Division.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There are currently insufficient PRCS Department staffing and budgetary resources to implement new policies and procedures of any type. If an Anti-bullying Policy and Procedure is adopted, the PRCS Department will request that the City Council consider providing any necessary funding during the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget process.

ATTACHMENT:

Draft Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure as Submitted by the Members of the Anti-Bullying Policy Development Ad Hoc Subcommittee

MOTIONS:

That the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission:

Make a recommendation to the City Council regarding a PRCS Department Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure.