

May 23, 2018

Honorable Barbara Bry
Chair, Budget Review Committee
City of San Diego
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chairwoman Bry:

On behalf of the Recreation Council Working Group (“Working Group”), we want to express our support for the proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. **The Working Group took formal action at our public meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 to endorse the addition of \$290,605 to the Parks and Recreation Department budget for the administration of Recreation Center Funds.**

The Working Group has met several times since February to discuss the impacts and implications of changing city policy for recreation center operations, and have been dedicated to creating a new policy framework that will minimize disruptions in recreational programming, as well as encourage continued community volunteer involvement in the functions and operations of each recreation center.

During this process, it has become apparent to the Working Group the complex nature of this endeavor. The Parks and Recreation Department will now manage more than 7,500 recreation classes annually. More than 60% were previously operated by the recreation councils. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department will actively manage more than 50 individual Recreation Center Fund budgets. This management task will include the necessity to offer efficient procurement, contract management, and financial reporting. With oversight of nearly \$4 million in annual revenue from classes and programs being transferred to the City, we believe the Parks and Recreation Department needs these new positions to ensure the successful implementation of the revised City Council Policy 700-22, as well as proper fiscal oversight.

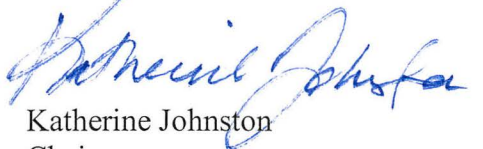
Another concern that has been presented during these discussions, is the need for the Parks and Recreation Department to identify strategies that will mitigate disparities in recreational programming. While we have yet to resolve how this critical societal issue can be addressed in the revised council policy, we believe additional staff resources will enable the Parks and Recreation Department to better respond to concerns and perceptions of programmatic inequalities.

Honorable Barbara Bry
May 23, 2018
Page 2

As we pursue potential solutions to this complex issue, including the idea of creating a new citywide parks and recreation foundation to complement funding opportunities for recreation programs and facilitate philanthropic giving, it will be critical to have additional staff resources to implement a comprehensive approach to recreational programming, and to provide a mechanism to effectively generate funds to support our social equity priorities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Katherine Johnston
Chair
Recreation Council Working Group


Marcella Bothwell
Chair
Recreation Council Working Group

cc. Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Councilmember Lorie Zapf, District 2
Councilmember Chris Ward, District 3
Council President Myrtle Cole, District 4
Councilmember Mark Kersey, District 5
Councilmember Chris Cate, District 6
Councilmember Scott Sherman, District 7
Councilmember David Alvarez, District 8
Councilmember Georgette Gómez, District 9
Mr. Herman Parker, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Ms. Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Ms. Jessica Lawrence, Director of Finance Policy and Council Affairs, Office of the Mayor