



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Sylvia  
Arenas

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

APPROVED:

**SUBJECT: AUDIT OF POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE**

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt Mayor Liccardo and Vice Mayor Carrasco's memo, including their outreach and transition plan, with the addition of community and stakeholder input and feedback for the future of the Police Activity League (PAL) program.
2. Identify families that were overcharged PAL registration fees in all sports and all Districts in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and offer a reduction of fees for future enrollment in PAL programs for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.
3. Report updates on the outreach and transition plans to Neighborhood Services and Education Committee (NSE) on a quarterly basis until a new model has been successfully adopted and implemented. Additionally, present to NSE the operations and fundraising models, as outlined in Mayor and Vice Mayor's memo, before the Spring 2019 presentation to Council – including updates regarding item 2 of this memo.

## DISCUSSION

First, I would like to thank Vice Mayor Carrasco for her leadership in requesting this audit and Sharon Erickson and her team for their hard work and dedication to this audit. I'd also like to thank the SJPD officers who donate via payroll deduction to Police Activities League, and the countless parents and volunteers who spend their time ensuring the success of these programs for the community.

PAL has been providing vital interactions between community and law enforcement for many years throughout San Jose neighborhoods. San Jose Police Department (SJPD) has worked hard to build a strong foundation of communication and trust with the community through the PAL programs. However, per the Auditor's findings, the lack of oversight has led to some serious concerns for the Police Activities League. Specifically, the audit findings that low income families participating in PAL were subsidizing registration fees for those in higher income neighborhoods is cause for great concern. Families in the Foothill Division were charged

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anywhere from \$10-\$25 more in soccer registration fees than other districts, and were charged for uniforms while other districts were not. Not only were jersey costs exempt from registration fees in some districts, but 78 more jerseys were printed than needed in districts where registration fees were the lowest.

Because Foothill Division families paid more in registration fees and jersey costs, the audit found they subsidized the cost for other families. I'd like to see an opportunity for these families to be compensated by a reduction in future registration costs of programs in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. I understand that a refund is not a viable option, so a discount on future enrollment is a step in the right direction towards bringing back equity.

I applaud the Mayor and Vice Mayor's outreach suggestion and I believe that all stakeholders involved in PAL should have an opportunity to give input on the future direction of the League. I would encourage this outreach to include a full visioning process that includes PAL participants, volunteers, coaches, donors, and the broader community surrounding the PAL facilities. Quarterly updates on the outreach process and transition of operations should be brought to NSE.

I believe in the Police Activities League mission to "promote a constructive relationship between law enforcement agencies, young people and citizens of the community" and strongly feel this can be achieved by regaining the trust of the community and engaging them on how best to move forward.