



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Carrasco
Councilmember Esparza

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 12/18/2020

Approved: *Magdalena Carrasco Maya Esparza*

Date: 12/18/2020

SUBJECT: POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE OPERATING MODEL CONTRACT

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve Staff's recommendation to approve guiding principles for an agreement between the City of San José and the San José Police Activities League to provide operations of the J.R. Blackmore Police Activities League Stadium Complex, including operating athletic programs, performing minor facility maintenance and conducting fundraising activities.

BACKGROUND

The pandemic and ensuing shelter in place order placed restrictions on youth sport activities to fight the spread of COVID-19. While protecting human life is of the utmost importance, the shelter in place restrictions have confirmed the incredible need to invest in youth sports. With gang activity and gang-related homicides on the rise during the shelter in place, we must continue to create positive outlets for our youth to build leadership skills, perseverance, and constructive relationships with their peers and the community.

Positive benefits are not only seen on an individual basis but amplified in our neighborhoods building a greater sense of community by bringing families, friends, and neighbors together. Since 1969, San José PAL has served as a quality youth crime prevention program that builds positive relationships between our Police Department and the community. For over half a century, our communities have benefitted from the programming and the positive relationships that were developed within PAL.

In 2020, the need for this service has grown to its highest peak we have seen in decades.

The City of San José has made a commitment to equity and to the equitable delivery of City services and resources to meet the needs of our underserved communities. We have frequently highlighted the challenges our underserved communities face, particularly in the East Side, and the need for further investment to combat the historic and deliberate underinvestment in these communities. This proposal lays the foundation for our local youth to benefit from this incredible local resource and its programming.

While San José PAL offers a significant benefit for our communities, we must also require the policies and operations of the organization are compliant with best practices to ensure our taxpayers dollars are utilized effectively, transparently, and are invested in our youth – our future leaders. In 2018, the audit conducted by the City Audit's Office identified the necessity for the City to re-evaluate the relationship with the San José Police Activities League by shining light on several areas of improvement within the San José Police Activities League structure and operations.

Through months of work by City Staff and the leadership of the San José Police Activities League, this proposal addresses the concerns of the audit and implements the necessary changes to set a strong foundation for San José PAL to prosper while establishing concrete milestones for when the necessary changes must be made.

These changes include creating an operational model that focuses on board recruitment and long-term strategic planning which will strengthen the organization to serve our children and their families. This work is critical to a continued partnership between the City and the communities San José PAL serves. As stated above, San José PAL has been a staple in the East Side communities for over 50 years and we must continue to ensure its long-term success.

Our communities have endured the greatest health crisis of our lifetime and suffered from the resulting consequences of increased gang activity, increased homicides, and lack of positive outlets for our youth. While there remains uncertainty when Santa Clara County will enter into the red and orange tier which would permit certain youth sports, we must plan for the future by strengthening our partnership with San José PAL by supporting and implementing the necessary changes to the structure and operations of the organization to ensure our youth are being recruited to sports teams, not gangs.

The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.