




Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Pam Foley
Councilmember Dev Davis

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 15, 2020

APPROVED:  

DATE: April 15, 2021

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RECOGNIZING WILLOW GLEN HIGH SCHOOL
AS THE 2021 SANTA CLARA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL
TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS SPONSORED BY COUNCIL DISTRICTS
6 AND 9 AS A CITY COUNCIL SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENT TO
EXPEND CITY FUNDS AND ACCEPT DONATIONS OF MATERIALS
AND SERVICES FOR THE EVENT**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the recognizing Willow Glen High School's Mock Trial team as the champions of the 2021 Santa Clara County High School Mock Trial tournament scheduled on April 27, 2021 as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds.
2. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses, or community groups to support the event.
3. Place item on the April 27, 2021 Council Agenda for action.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Clara County High School Mock Trial Program is sponsored by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the Santa Clara County Bar Association, and the Santa Clara County Superior Court. It provides a unique opportunity for high school students to acquire a working knowledge of what it is like to prepare for and present a legal case before the court. Teams of 18 students study a hypothetical case that is provided by the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF). Each team must be prepared to either defend or prosecute the case, fulfilling the roles of pretrial attorneys, prosecutors, defense attorneys, witnesses, and court staff. These teams conduct legal research and receive individual coaching by their school coach and a volunteer attorney in trial preparation, courtroom protocol, courtroom procedure, analysis and communication.

On February 16, 2021, Willow Glen High School's defense team defeated Cupertino High School's prosecution team in the championship round of the Santa Clara County High School Mock Trial Tournament by a score of 893 to 857. The seven-round, four-week Zoom tournament involving twenty public and private high schools was conducted entirely through Zoom. The tournament was presided over by sitting superior court judges and is scored by hundreds of local attorneys.

Willow Glen's pretrial attorney Maya Carpenter and Sanvi Manik, who portrayed the defendant, were named Willow Glen's MVPs of the final round. The Willow Glen team is coached by local attorneys Jim Scharf and Doug Johns.

Willow Glen High School then advanced to the state championship where they went 2-2, placing 16th out of 34 total teams. However, that record doesn't tell the whole story. Willow Glen won its first two rounds against Contra Costa County and Fresno County. In round three Willow Glen lost a very close round against Ventura County, the team that went on to win the state tournament. In round four, Willow Glen tied Orange County but unfortunately lost the presiding judge's tie-breaker. Willow Glen's only true loss was to the state champion. Willow Glen proved that it was a top tier team at states. No Santa Clara County Team has achieved greater than 2-2 at the state championships in the past eleven years.

Mock Trial is one of the few interscholastic competitive activities that survived the pandemic. We are very proud of each and every student on the Willow Glen High School Mock Trial team for all of the hard work and dedication that attributed to their achievements in both the 2021 Santa Clara County High School Mock Trial tournament and the succeeding state tournament.

ANALYSIS

Approval by the City Council of the event will ensure compliance with the Council's prior direction regarding Council Special Events. In observance of existing fundraising disclosure requirements, Councilmember Pam Foley and Councilmember Dev Davis will report any cash or in-kind donations received for the event on their Disclosure of Fundraising Report (DFR-1). Approval of this memorandum will enable Council District 6, Council District 9, City departments and the Office of the City Clerk to proceed with the event. Any cash donations received will be processed pursuant to the City's normal financial and budgetary procedures.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

The Office of the City Clerk will post the item on the City's Website for the April 21, 2021 Rules Committee Agenda and the April 27, 2021 City Council Agenda.

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organization & Administrative Activities resulting in no changes to the physical environment.

Not a Project, File No. PP17-011, Temporary Special Events resulting in no changes to the physical environment.

Exempt, File No. PP12-080. Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effect on the environment.

Exempt, File No. PP13-056, Activities associated with citywide litter clean-up activities.

Exempt, File No. PP11-046, Graffiti removal services.

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.