

**ARTS, PARKS,
MOTION HEALTH & AGING**
MAY 25 2007


The City of Los Angeles has an obligation to its youth. One component of this responsibility is providing access to recreational activities, which helps educate and enrich the lives of children from all backgrounds. In addition, these programs are increasingly important in lower-income communities as the City looks to further its efforts in gang prevention.

The Department of Recreation and Parks recently revised the method in which it funds some of its programs. It adheres to a three-tiered system to identify the level of financial assistance that families will need for their children to participate. In addition, the Department's pilot program for the baseball season identified a uniform cost for offering the program for each participant, regardless of the community. This allows the Department to more clearly assess how to subsidize the program. Providing a funding structure that ensures equity in the level and quality of service demonstrates the Department's commitment to our youth.

Although the Department's pilot program for baseball has received positive feedback, expanding this model will require a greater reliance on funding sources to assist lower-income families. The Department has been relying on the Municipal Recreation Program Fund and the General Fund Annual Youth Sports Fund, but it relies now more than ever on these accounts to subsidize families that cannot afford the fees. To ensure the availability of funding to provide these subsidies, the Department should pursue additional funding to continue its progress.

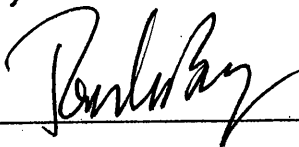
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and the Department of Recreation and Parks report to Council on the creation of a fund-raising arm dedicated to achieving equity of services and to continue assisting lower-income communities of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY



JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY



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