County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
http://ceo.lacounty.gov

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

#13 JUNE 22, 2009

SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

June 11, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT FUNDED YOUTH WORKERS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

This memo is in response to the April 21, 2009 motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas which directs the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to work with the Departments of Parks and Recreation (Parks) and Community and Senior Services (CSS) to report back on the feasibility of utilizing Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to create alternative youth programming in Parks and Recreation during Budget Deliberations.

The CEO's 2009-10 Proposed Budget recommends the elimination of 22 Youth Worker positions in the Parks and Recreation Youth Workers Program. This Program offers temporary employment to youth defined as "at-risk" between the ages of 14 and 24.

The purpose of the Youth Worker Program is to provide meaningful employment for youth, especially during the summer months when they are out of school, as an important step toward promoting their health, safety and general well-being.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08, 181 Youth Workers were employed by Parks with a total of 106,488 hours of service. In FY 2008-09, 351 Youth Workers were employed by Parks with a total of 102,312 hours of service. Job duties vary from office work, custodial, grounds maintenance, public pool locker room clerks, and various construction fields. Youth are currently paid $8.48 an hour.

The CEO, Parks and CSS convened to explore the feasibility of utilizing WIA funds to allow youth the opportunity to work in parks during the summer months. Two opportunities were identified. Given that Parks' existing Youth Worker program is for at-risk youth, those youth already identified to participate this summer are eligible for employment under the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) administered by CSS and funded by the WIA Youth Grant. Due to the loss of funding for Parks' Youth Workers Program, these youth would be unable to participate in summer youth employment activities. To that end, CSS will coordinate with their network of contract agencies to provide the youth the opportunity to participate in the WIA-funded SYEP, with Parks as a placement site. CSS and Parks are coordinating the details to expedite that process. In addition, Parks will serve as a placement site for SYEP, which will allow for inclusion of additional youth workers. CSS and Parks will partner to find locations in the park system and determine a target number of youth that can be employed.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know, or your staff may contact Jenny Serrano at (213) 974-0801, or via e-mail at jserrano@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:MS:JS:ljp

c: Department of Community and Senior Services
Department of Parks and Recreation

workforce investment act.bm