

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 05-160

DATE June 15, 2005

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WONDERFUL OUTDOOR WORLD (WOW) PROGRAM - \$2,500 DONATION FROM THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY IN HONOR OF MR. GABRIEL TALAMONTES

J. Combs  
\*K. Regan  
F. Mok  
B. Jensen



H. Fujita  
S. Huntley  
J. Kolb

  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Accept with gratitude, the donation of \$2,500, from The Walt Disney Company in honor of Mr. Gabriel Talamontes, a ten-year employee of The Walt Disney Company, to the Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) Program; and,
2. Direct that upon receipt of the \$2,500, the donation be deposited into Fund 301, Department 88, Municipal Recreation Program Account 712, Sub-Account 1750.

SUMMARY:

Since 1995, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) Program has offered camping experiences throughout the City of Los Angeles. With an emphasis on utilizing our neighborhood parks six or seven times a year, the Los Angeles WOW engages 42 youths in a well-rounded, first-time camping experience at each session. We hold between six to ten sessions each year depending on funding. This nationally recognized WOW Program has several partners which include The Walt Disney Company, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, the Coleman Company, Leave No Trace, the Recreation Roundtable, and Wells Cargo Company.

WOW is both a philosophy and a program that, at its foundation, believes that outdoor recreation plays an important and positive role in American culture. WOW will take a core group of young people, ages 8-12; through a one and one-half day camping experience within the heart of their own

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community (parents will participate during the opening and closing activities). The goals of WOW are to introduce inner-city youth to camping and outdoor recreation through a safe and controlled experience. WOW emphasizes the importance of understanding and respecting urban and wildland ecosystems.

It takes the cooperation of many corporate partners and numerous volunteers to provide a successful WOW experience. Many of our volunteers have come through the Walt Disney VoluntEAR Program. Mr. Gabriel Talamontes, a ten-year Walt Disney employee, is an avid volunteer to the WOW Program as a camp counselor.

This year, The Walt Disney Company named Mr. Gabriel Talamontes the Disney VoluntEAR of the Year. In his name, The Walt Disney Company donated \$2,500 to the Department of Recreation and Parks WOW Program. Mr. Talamontes has expressed that volunteering for the WOW Program is one of his most rewarding experiences.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no fiscal impact to the Department's General Fund; however, the donation will greatly enhance the WOW Program.

Report prepared by Robin Smith and Dana Valdez.