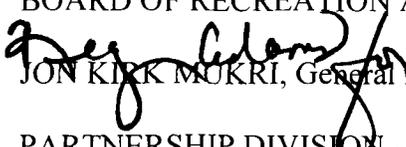


FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

October 19, 2011

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM:  JON KIRK MOKRI, General Manager
SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP DIVISION - HEAD START PROGRAM OPERATIONS AT
FOUR SITES

Federally funded Pre-School Head Start Programs are free preschool educational services provided to children ages 3 and 4 from low income families. Head Start Programs not only help prepare these children for success in school and meet the needs of special populations, including children with disabilities, but also provide comprehensive social services to their families. Head Start Programs are required to be operated under the California Childcare Center General Licensing requirements.

The Partnership Division has identified nine (9) Pre-School Head Start Programs that have been operating on park property at the following recreation centers for many years: Ross Snyder, Green Meadows, Jackie Tatum/Harvard, Algin Sutton, Valley Plaza, Monsignor Ramon P.Garcia, State Street, Boyle Heights, and Highland Park.

In April 2011, the Department received notices that four (4) Preschool Head Start Programs located on park property would be closing:

- Delta Sigma Theta - Head Start - Ross Snyder Recreation Center
- Los Angeles Urban League - Green Meadows Recreation Center
- Los Angeles Urban League - Jackie Tatum/Harvard Recreation Center
- Los Angeles Urban League - Algin Sutton Recreation Center

Both Delta Sigma Theta and the Los Angeles Urban League delivered preschool services for over 30 years at these sites. However, the lease agreements with Delta Sigma Theta and the Los Angeles Urban League for the use of Department property have long since expired.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (L.A.C.O.E.) as the grantee for federal funding for operations and maintenance of all four of the closed Head Start Programs served as an oversight and pass-through function.

L.A.C.O.E. allocates National Head Start grant money to delegate organizations to run Head Start Programs throughout the City and County of Los Angeles. Additionally, L.A.C.O.E. monitors these delegate organizations to ensure that they adhere to program standards and health and safety regulations. Earlier this year, L.A.C.O.E. terminated its funding to Delta Sigma Theta for one site and the Los Angeles Urban League for the other three sites, due to non-compliance.

Each of the Head Start sites has 1-2 classrooms in pre-fabricated structures, with an outside area complete with playground equipment in a gated and enclosed area. L.A.C.O.E. purchased the classrooms and playground equipment with Federal funds and had them installed on Department property. Pursuant to their contract with L.A.C.O.E., the delegate Head Start organizations are responsible to maintain the classrooms and playground equipment with the Federal grant funds.

While L.A.C.O.E. ceased funding to Delta Sigma Theta and the Los Angeles Urban League for their Head Start operations at these specific sites, L.A.C.O.E. desired to have Head Start program services continue at these four sites. The Department concurred with L.A.C.O.E. that the continued provision of Head Start services at the four sites would be beneficial to the respective communities.

L.A.C.O.E. completed a Request for Proposal process and selected the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (P.A.C.E.) to continue the Head Start program at Ross Synder Recreation Center.

L.A.C.O.E. formally released its jurisdiction over the three sites vacated by Los Angeles Urban League, reverting these Head Start services and their respective responsibilities back to National Head Start. National Head Start selected Community Development Institute (C.D.I.) to act as the interim Head Start service provider at Green Meadows, Jackie Tatum/Harvard, and Algin Sutton Recreation Centers until other delegate organizations can be identified and selected.

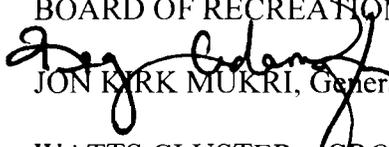
The Partnership Division has issued temporary Right of Entry Permits to P.A.C.E. and C.D.I. for the four (4) sites in order to allow these organizations temporary and limited use of Department property to provide Head Start preschool services beginning September 1, 2011, until formal Agreements are executed. The Partnership Division is awaiting the City Attorney Office's completion of their review of a childcare-related "template" agreement. Once reviewed and approved by the City Attorney, this template will be used as the basis for all formal agreements with Head Start delegates and other organizations operating pre-school, cooperative nursery school related activities/programs on or adjacent to park property, and shall be presented to the Board for approval at that time.

This report was prepared by Leslie Richter, Senior Recreation Director, Partnership Division.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

October 19, 2011

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM:  JON KIRK MUKRI, General Manager
SUBJECT: WATTS CLUSTER – CROSSING AND BREAKING DOWN GANG TERRITORIES THROUGH RECREATION

In 2008, two very dedicated and passionate Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) employees, Karl Stephens and Gregory Thomas created a character building program to combat gang violence in three Watts Housing Developments, Nickerson Gardens, Imperial Courts, and Jordan Downs, by providing recreational activities for youth ages 11-15. The goals of the program are to improve and enhance recreational opportunities for at-risk youth; build critical thinking and ethical decision making skills; teach the value of community service, and instill a sense of unity among the youth by breaking down gang territory alliances. Each housing project is home to a street gang and the stereotype of gang membership follows every youth living within these complexes. The “Watts Cluster” Program breaks down that stereotype by encouraging friendships between the youth and allowing them to cross gang territories through recreational activities.

The Watts Cluster Program combats gang violence by allowing at-risk youth to safely cross gang territories through recreational activities. The success of a gang prevention program does not always rely on just keeping youth active. A truly successful prevention program should bring communities together in unity, friendship, and recreation.

Through a collaborative partnership between RAP and People For Parks, known as the South Los Angeles Initiative, the submission of the Watts Cluster sports programs to the 2011 Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports brought home the GOLD MEDAL and a \$10,000 prize to honor the positive and active recreational sports programs.

A powerpoint presentation, Crossing and Breaking Down Gang Territories Through Recreation, will be presented at the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) 2011 Congress in Atlanta on November 2, 2011.

This report was prepared by Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager, Partnership and Revenue Branch.