



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 6, 2017

Re: Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth Donation Appropriation

Executive Summary

The Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth is a program to provide toys for the holidays for Columbia's underprivileged youth and is supported by voluntary donations from individuals and agencies. The Parks and Recreation Department received cash donations in the amount of \$2,865 and expended \$2,430 for the 2016 Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth Program. The Department is requesting the City Council approve the ordinance accepting the donations and appropriating funds to the Community Recreation operating account to reimburse the Department for the amount expended to purchase new toys for the 2016 program. The balance of donation funds will roll over to support next year's program.

Discussion

The Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth Program was created to provide toys for the holidays for Columbia's underprivileged youth, ages 1-12. The goal is to provide at least three gifts for up to three children per family for qualifying households. Registrants must be residents of Columbia who are not receiving holiday assistance from another agency. The Department collaborates with the Salvation Army, Voluntary Action Center, and Rainbow House to make sure families are not receiving support from more than one service, enabling more families in the community to receive assistance. Participants must provide proof of income or EBT (food stamp) card and a picture ID upon registration. In 2016, 301 youth from 125 families were served by this program.

The program is supported by voluntary donations. Citizens are invited to donate new or slightly used toys and/or make a monetary donation to the program. The Parks and Recreation Department received \$2,865 in cash donations from various individuals and agencies for the 2016 program. The Department assesses the amount and type of toys donated and the number and ages of the children of registered families to determine how many new toys are needed to be purchased. The Department expended \$2,430 on new toys, which were distributed to children in qualifying families. There was a 5% increase in the number of children served, and the department was able to accommodate all qualifying requests this year. The balance of the donated funds will roll over to support next year's program.

The Department is requesting the City Council approve the ordinance accepting the donations and appropriating the funds to the Community Recreation operating account to reimburse the Department for the amount expended to purchase new toys for the 2016 program.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None. The donation appropriation will offset the amount expended for the program. The balance of unappropriated donations will roll over to support next year's program.

Long-Term Impact: None.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Health, Social Services & Affordable Housing, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
02/01/2016	Ordinance 022727; Donation appropriation for Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth
02/16/2015	Ordinance 022369; Donation appropriation for Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance accepting and appropriating the donations for the Holiday Toys for Columbia's Youth Program.