



CITY of CALABASAS

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JULY 29, 2020

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: JEFF RUBIN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES JR

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING OPERATED BY LITTLE LEARNERS AT CITY FACILITIES

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 5, 2020

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve additional programming operated by Little Learners at City Facilities.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2003, Little Learners, LLC, under the ownership of Bridget Nelson and Carly Armacost, has operated the Camp Calabasas seasonal camp programs in addition to the state licensed before and after school programming at Lupin Hill Elementary School, all of which is under an agreement with the City. In 2018, City Council approved the expansion of the Little Learners Agreement to include the operation of the Calabasas Klubhouse Pre School. These programs and partnership have proved to be successful over the years and provide for essential services for our community.

With many families seeking safe and trusted programming for their children as they work to create a healthy work/life balance, the Community Services Department continues to strive to meet the community's ongoing needs. With uncertainty ahead due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Little Learners is exploring creative ways to accommodate the needs of the residents of Calabasas in both the short and long

term. We all look forward to the day that our current offerings and those that remain closed can move forward without restrictions.

Since early Spring 2020, with the closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both Little Learners and their programming have faced extreme difficulties that include closures, steep enrollment declines, staffing challenges and financial impacts due to substantially less income. Even with the slow re-opening of programs that are now allowed by the State and County, families are hesitant to return. An example of this is evident when on March 19, 2020; the enrollment at the Calabasas Klubhouse Pre School was at 145 students. The following day, a mandatory closure of the school was implemented from March 20 to May 31. As of the date of this report, current enrollment has plummeted to 41, a loss of 104 students. Beginning August 3, enrollment is expected to increase to 59 students. We are hopeful to see 71 students by September 1. Staff will elaborate further and provide a comprehensive report regarding the Klubhouse operations at the August 12, 2020, City Council meeting.

DISCUSSION:

With the Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) announcing that the 2020-2021 school year will start with a virtual learning environment, the City, LVUSD and Little Learners discussed ways to serve the families in need of all-day care. To this end, discussions have centered around providing a full day virtual learning academy program and a full day early childhood education/advanced Pre-K program at various facilities. LVUSD has offered to provide additional classroom space on campus at Lupin Hill. Additionally, City Staff accompanied Little Learners on tours of several City facilities to see which could accommodate such programs. Tours of the Tennis & Swim Center, Senior Center, Founders Hall, De Anza Park and the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center took place. After much discussion, Little Learners developed the attached program proposals for De Anza Park, the Senior Center and Founders Hall.

By offering programs with similar framework to their other State Licensed Programs, Little Learners can fill what is felt to be a need at this time based upon feedback from the community. These new offerings could possibly help with some of the severe financial losses incurred due to COVID-19. It might also provide the ability to move some of their current staff from existing programs to the new programs.

All current protocols and regulations provided by the Department of Social Services/Community Care Licensing Division, California Department of Public

Health, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and other governing agencies will be strictly followed as has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic. Daily health and safety checks will be done for all programs and will take place at drop-off and throughout the day to ensure that the campus/program will be as healthy as possible. The program at each facility will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in order to accommodate the working families. If approved, registration will commence immediately as the school year begins in just a couple of weeks. Staff will provide continuous updates to the City Council as part of the City Manager's Significant Activities Report on a weekly basis.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Staff has discussed two payment options with Little Learners for use of City Facilities. One option is based on the current facility rental fee schedule and the other is a fixed percentage of gross revenue.

REQUESTED ACTION:

It is requested that the City Council review the attached proposals and approve additional programming operated by Little Learners at City facilities.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit A:** Calabasas Klubhouse Program Expansion at De Anza Park
- Exhibit B:** Virtual Learning and Camp Calabasas Program Proposal