



Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

4/22/08
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Honorable Mayor and
City Council
200 E. Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

The Parks and Recreation Commission is pleased to endorse the proposed Community Center Reuse Policy. The Parks and Recreation Commission have participated in this process since September 7, 2005 when the Commission appointed a Commissioner to the Community Center Reuse Advisory Task Force.

The City's Community Centers serve as the primary mechanisms for the delivery of recreation, leisure, and educational services. In fact, because these centers provide services to many of our underserved populations, we were dismayed when the City was forced to consider closing recreation centers due to the Community Services Division's declining operational revenues and resulting staffing cutbacks. At the same time, the Division faced a growing inventory of facilities and square footage as new state-of-the-art facilities with larger footprints come online resulting from the \$228 million General Obligation Bond.

We are pleased, however, that the City Council approved funding in the FY 2008-2009 Adopted Budget, which keeps Community Center Reuse sites open, and for financing center use. Staff's proposed Reuse policy, which staff presented to the Commission on April 2nd, provides a well thought-out plan for non-fee use of neighborhood programming space in return for services provided to San José residents.

The Parks and Recreation Commission therefore encourage adoption of the policy, and applaud the Community Services Division for their outreach and involvement of the community in this process.

Yours truly,

Melanie Richardson,
Chair

cc: Parks & Recreation Commission, City Manager Deb Figone, Albert Balagso, Director, Angel Rios, Deputy Director