

Social Services Commission Meeting Agenda Announcement

On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-25-20, which allows Brown Act Body members to attend meetings telephonically. Please be advised that some Whittier Social Services Commissioners may attend this meeting telephonically.

Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. Please note, by order of the presiding officer, public comments minutes may be reduced if at their discretion a surplus of public speakers is present at the meeting.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400
- Live Audio via Zoom: Only those members of the public who have 'raised their hand' on Zoom will be in the queue for speaking.
- In person at City Hall 13230 Penn St., Whittier, CA 90602, City Council Chamber

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81856830791>
Use 'Raise Hand' feature
- Audio only: Dial (669) 900-9128 (Meeting ID: 818 5683 0791)
Press *9 to 'Raise Hand' and then *6 to unmute yourself when prompted

Please submit email comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Social Service Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
APRIL 2, 2024, 6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Jeff Brauckmann
Commissioner Carlos Illingworth
Vice-Chair Jose Luevano

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address the Social Services Commission regarding any item of business, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 public comments can be made via:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

Please submit email and voicemail public comments by 5:30 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails and voicemails received by 5:30 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails and voicemails received after 5:30 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2023, and Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 8, 2024.

5.B. INFORMATION AND REFERRAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive and file the Information and Referral Report for August 2023 – March 2024.

5.C. 2023 WHITTIER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Recommendation: Discuss and approve recipients for the 2023 Whittier Volunteer Recognition award.

5.D. 2024 WHITTIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM-SPONSORED BY ATHENS AND REPUBLIC SERVICES

Recommendation: Discuss and select the 2024 Whittier Scholarship Program recipients.

6. SECRETARY COMMENTS

7. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

The agenda packet is available three days before the meeting in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at City Hall (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) and the East Whittier Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Additionally, the agenda packet can be viewed on the City's website. Materials distributed to the Commission within 72 hours of the Social Services Commission meeting are available for public inspection in the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Office.

Los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad están disponibles para permitir que las personas con discapacidad participen en esta reunión, de conformidad con la Ley Federal de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990. También hay intérpretes en español disponibles. Para obtener información o para solicitar servicios, comuníquese con el Departamento de recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad de la reunión al (562) 567-9400.

El paquete de la agenda está disponible tres días antes de la reunión el Departamento Parques Recreación y Servicio a la Comunidad en el Ayuntamiento (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) y Biblioteca sucursal del este de Whittier (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Además, el paquete de la agenda se puede ver en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Los materiales distribuidos al Concejo Municipal dentro de las 72 horas de la reunión del Comisión de Servicios Sociales están disponibles para inspección pública en el Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Dated this 28th day of March 2024.

/s/ Roxanne Gonzalez

Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: April 2, 2024

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2023, and Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 8, 2024.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

Staff prepared draft minutes and hereby submits the Minutes for Commission approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2023
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 8, 2024

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WHITTIER CITY HALL, 13230 PENN STREET
NOVEMBER 7, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Social Services Commission was called to order at 6:39 p.m. on November 7, 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Carlos Illingworth, Commissioner (6:50 p.m.)
Jose Luevano, Vice Chair
Irene Muro, Chair

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager
Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Luevano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. OATH OF OFFICE

Oath of office was administered to Jeff Brauckmann.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Isiah Leslye Leon Savage, a member of the public asked the following questions:

- Where is funding going and what are the agencies that are receiving funding? Manager Hamilton responded that the \$176,516 comes from the City general funds and non-profit agencies throughout Whittier may apply for these funds. She listed the twelve (12) agencies that applied for funding. She explained the Commission was tasked with reviewing the applications via guidelines set by Council and will make recommendations for Council to take into consideration. Manager Hamilton informed Mr. Savage that the information is available on the City website.
- Do these agencies provide services to the homeless population? Manager Hamilton explained for this funding cycle homelessness was not a focus, but some of the agencies do provide services to the homeless. Mental Health services was a focus for this funding cycle.

- How the funds are dispersed if homelessness people who are not Whittier residents are receiving services and are funds are going towards education? Chair Muro recommended staff schedule a meeting with Mr. Savage to answer questions he may have regarding social services funding. She continued that in this funding cycle there was a focus on mental health and a general focus where agencies may provide a variety of safety net social services for the City of Whittier. She added that there is higher scoring amount that goes to agencies that are Whittier serving.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6. A. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Vice-Chair Luevano, seconded by Commissioner Brauckmann and carried by 2-0 vote to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 1, 2023. (Abstained: Commissioner Brauckmann; Absent: Commissioner Illingworth)

6. B. Social Services Grant Funding Applications FY 2023-24

Manager Hamilton stated that we received Council direction to allocate funding between two focus groups. Agencies who provide mental health services applied for funding under Focus Group One; 50% of total funds were available for allocation. Agencies who provide other services to Whittier residents applied under Focus Group Two; 50% of total funds were available for allocation. We received a total of twelve (12) applications, three (3) agencies applied under Focus Group 1, and nine (9) agencies applied under Focus Group 2. The following agencies applied for funding:

Focus Group 1:

LA CADA
SPIRITT Family Services
Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter

Focus Group 2:

Boys and Girls Club
Community Legal Aid SoCal
Meals on Wheels
PIH Health Foundation
Whittier Area interfaith Council
Assistance League of Whittier
Interfaith food Center
CAPC, Inc.
Jovenes, Inc

Chair Muro asked for a walkthrough on the process of finalizing funding recommendations. Manager Hamilton provided a brief history on the application review process. She stated that in the past Commissioners would review the applications and provide funding recommendations, however Council directed staff to create a more definitive method to review applications and allocate funding. Staff created a rubric and spreadsheet which will allocate funding based on scores agencies received after applications are reviewed alongside the rubric. She added that although the Pre-Submission meeting was

mandatory, we wanted to show agencies grace, so agencies who did not attend the meeting were still eligible to apply for funding. However, their absence would affect the score they received, which in turn would affect the funding amount they may receive. Vice-Chair Luevano added that in the past the Commission would review applications and refer to the agencies average scores when discussing whether to fund an agency fully or partially. The focus groups would be reviewed separately, and when reviewing focus group one or two the Commission would discuss how they determined their score for each agency. If the scores vastly differed the Commission would discuss what led them to determine their score. He recommended starting with Focus Group 1 with three agencies whose request were less than what is available to allocate.

Commissioner Illingworth and Vice-Chair Luevano suggested averaging the total scores. Manager Hamilton directed staff to update the charts to reflect the total points each agency earned overall. Chair Muro asked how does scoring go hand in hand with the funding allocations. Manager Hamilton indicated the funding amounts are allocated differently in the main spreadsheet because the top scored agency received 100% of their requested amount. Vice-Chair Luevano added that this is a new rubric which provides a black and white transparency, but if there is additional funding then the Commission can discuss allocating it to another worthy agency.

Secretary Santana stated that the chart should show the total points earned, not the average of each individual score. She stated we could ask Council for direction on how to disperse the surplus in Focus Group 1. Secretary Santana recommended the Commission discuss how they felt about the applications submitted, what was submitted and why the agency was scored a specific amount of points. She added that all the weight is on the points and the points given will change the ranking of each agency affecting the award amount. Chair Muro asked if it is safe to say that an agency would receive full funding if ranked number one. Secretary Santana stated yes, and the agencies ranked below the funding will be adjusted. Chair Muro asked if 100% is full award amount, what is the rubric scoring mechanism to determine what the rest of the agencies will receive. Secretary Santana explained the chart automatically works its way down and adjusts the percentage of funding based on points received.

Chair Muro questioned why L.A. CADA who is receiving their full ask of \$20,000 amounts to only half of what SPIRITT Family Services would receive (\$37,180.00). Secretary Santana stated because L.A. CADA only requested \$20,000. Chair Muro asked if there is language stating that the amount the top scoring agency is the max that would be awarded. Manager Hamilton stated no, and added the reason there is a cap of \$40,00 because it has been the average amount received throughout the years. Chair Muro asked if L.A. CADA could be awarded more or are they only allowed to be awarded their ask amount. Secretary Santana stated L.A. CADA could have requested \$40,000, but only requested \$20,000 for their project. Manager Hamilton stated in the past commissioners would agree to not recommend awarding more money than what agencies requested because there may be other agencies who have not been fully or partially funded and are worthy of funding dollars as well.

Vice-Chair Luevano asked if the WCCS could be fully funded with the surplus. Secretary Santana stated that the points would dictate how much agencies would be awarded. Manager Hamilton added that the Commission could recommend Council consider fully funding the WCCS. Vice-Chair Luevano asked if the Commission is to submit scores and approve the scores and funding at the meeting even with a surplus in Focus Group 1. Chair Muro asked if there is an application in Focus Group 2 that could be moved to Focus Group 1, or will the application need to remain in Focus Group 2. Manager Hamilton responded that the application would need to remain in Focus Group 2. Secretary Santana added that at the mandatory meeting we emphasized the importance of the dollar amounts requested and submitting only one application. However, she added we did need to contact two agencies to inquire which application they would like to move forward as they are limited to one application per agency.

Commissioner Brauckmann stated that when he filled out the rubrics for the first time, he did not correlate the score directly with the percentage of money the agency should be awarded. He added that he gave LA CADA a score of 84 but still recommended to fully fund the agency. He asked if the Commission is in the position tonight to add or subtract to the amount of monies showing on the excel spreadsheet. Secretary Santana stated we could inform Council this is what the formula calculates but the Commission recommends this amount be awarded for the following reasons. She added that the chart is intended to distribute funding based on the points received. Secretary Santana stated the Council wanted to put weight on the proposed programming, what the agency will do with it, how the agency will offer the proposed services, and how the agency will evaluate their program. The information provided by agencies allows the Commission to vet and give a point value to the applications submitted. Those points will determine the percentage of funding an agency will receive.

Chair Muro asked if the allocations are tied to the formula how do the Commission's recommendations come into play and if the Commission is only discussing their scoring tonight and adjusting scores which would adjust the funding. Secretary Santana stated that the formula will work out the math. Manager Hamilton added that although the formula works out the math, we can inform Council that the Commission would like to suggest reevaluating how the dollar amount is determined and issued or inquire whether the Commission may have the flexibility to make adjustments to the dollar amount beyond what the percentage calculates. Chair Muro stated that she did not realize the scores would dictate the funding since it was not made clear to her as a scorer. She asked if the Commission could be allotted time to reevaluate the scores now that they have received clarification. Secretary Santana stated we may have time to allot the Commission to further review the applications, but we may need to have a special meeting as well.

Commissioner Brauckmann wanted to confirm that the funding amount the Commission submitted is irrelevant and everything is based on their scores. Secretary Santana stated yes and added that the scoresheets should have only

requested points. Vice-Chair Luevano asked if the Commission's role is to just submit the applications scores and approve the funding calculated by the formula. Secretary Santana stated that the role of the Commission is to give the applications points which will give the percentage of funding. She added that applications cannot move forward without the Commission evaluating the applications that are received. She continued that we have time to clarify how to move forward and host a special meeting before the next funding cycle begins. Vice-Chair Luevano stated that he and the Commission are looking for clarity on the following questions:

1. Can we allocate extra funds to organizations that did not request more than the \$20,000 or \$40,000.
2. Can we fully fund organizations who did not score 100 but with the surplus under focus group 1.

Chair Muro asked if the intent for Council changing the scoring rubric is to ensure every agency that applied received funding. She continued that although agencies are being funded, they are only receiving a small amount. Secretary Santana stated that the low-ranking agencies will not receive funding. She added that we will have a discussion with the City Manager to see what clarity we can provide and to determine if an agenda needs to go before Council for clarity. Commissioner Brauckmann stated that even if the Commission were to fully fund every agency in Focus Group 1, we would still have a surplus. He added that his understanding from staff was that the Commission cannot reallocate the surplus. He continued that if there is a surplus then it should be reallocated and awarded to another agency even if in Focus Group 2.

Commissioner Illingworth asked if the Commission could get clarity on their funding recommendation as individual Commissioners and how does that play into this process. Chair Muro stated that if we will be scoring based on the percentage that the organization should receive it may not always tie with how strong the application is. She added that there were organizations that perhaps did not receive 100 points in the scoring department but were recommended to be fully funded because of the merit of the program and the impact it's going to have in the community. She asked if there is a way to not have the funding tied to the percentage. Secretary Santana asked if the Commission wanted the ability to not fund an agency. Chair Muro stated yes because \$5,000 award will mean more to an organization with a \$100,000 budget than an organization with a 5-million-dollar budget. Secretary Santana stated we jotted down the questions asked and will get clarity on the Commission's role and direction on how to move forward. Chair Muro stated that it would be helpful to have all the organizations that receive other support from the City listed.

It was moved by Commissioner Illingworth, seconded by Commissioner Brauckmann, and carried by a 4-0 vote to table finalizing proposed funding allocations for the Social Services Grant Funding applications FY 2023-24 until the Commission receives clarity from the City Manager and Council.

7. SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Manager Hamilton updated the Commission on the following:

- We plan to begin the next funding cycle in January to get back on track.
- The Commissioner will see Volunteer of the Year and Trash Hauler Scholarships coming through early next year as well.
- The City partnered with the Whittier Community Foundation to host the 14th annual Spooktacular 5K. We had 2800 participants at the event.
- At the October 24, 2023, meeting Council accepted a donation of \$30,000 from the Whittier Community Foundations. The donation will be used for pickleball courts at Leffingwell Ranch Park.
- The City purchased a 12ft star to be hung in front of City Hall, a 26ft Christmas tree and 4ft bow topper which will go up in December,
- The City partnered with the Whittier Uptown Association this December. We will have a tree lighting ceremony in front of City Hall before the Holiday Sonata.
- Our Department hosted an Ace Skate event last Saturday. 20 vendors set up at Joe Miller Field and provided resources to individuals with disabilities. We partnered with the Ace Skate Foundation to host a positive event. The Foundation help kids and adults with autism and disabilities. They assisted many participants as they rode skateboards. Our adaptive recreation participants came out with their families and several other organizations like the National Charity League as well.
- Veterans Day will be held this Saturday at Central Park, the ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m.
- Chalktastic will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 in front of City Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Our tree lighting event and Cookies with Santa event are right around the corner.
- We secured tickets to the Rose Parade which will allow us to take people to the grand event.

8. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

No commission member comments/conference reports.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on November 7, 2023.

Virginia Santana, Secretary

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
WHITTIER CITY HALL, 13230 PENN STREET
JANUARY 8, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Social Services Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on January 8, 2024.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jeff Brauckmann, Commissioner
Carlos Illingworth, Commissioner
Jose Luevano, Vice Chair
Irene Muro, Chair (6:44 p.m.)

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager
Margo Diamond, Management Analyst
Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Illingworth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments received.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5. A. Social Services Grant Funding Applications FY 2023-24

Community Services Manager Hamilton stated that we presented their questions to Council at the December 12, 2023, meeting. Council clarified that funding would stay within the chart and dissolve the funding groups to address the surplus originally under Focus Group 1. However, she added that Council still wanted to keep the emphasis on mental health and so staff added questions to the rubric allowing agencies who provide mental health services to earn more points.

Commissioner Illingworth pointed out that the funding recommendation is \$176,516. Manager Hamilton responded that we would update the total. Vice-Chair Luevano asked if the Commission will be able to provide input on the

Social Services Grant Funding Applications FY 2024-25. Manager Hamilton stated she will provide updates during secretary comments.

It was moved by Commissioner Brauckmann, seconded by Commissioner Illingworth, and carried by a 3-0 vote to recommend the scores for City Councils consideration. (Absent: Chair Muro)

6. SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Manager Hamilton updated the Commission on the following:

We plan to discuss the Social Services Grant Funding Applications with Council at the January 23 meeting and ask for Commission input at the February 6 meeting. It will be a quick turnaround as we aim to align the timeline to LOWMOD and CDBG, per Councils direction.

Volunteer of the Year Applications will go live this month to honor recipients in April.

Trash Hauler Scholarship opportunity will open in February and selected students will receive their scholarships in May.

The Whittier Senior Center ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on January 23. We will send a formal postcard to Commissioners.

The Parks Master Plan will be presented to Council at the January 23, meeting.

7. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

Chair Muro invited the community to attend the homeless count on January 24 from 8:00 to midnight in SPA 7. The deployment site will be at the Whittier Seventh-Day Adventist Church on Calmada and Whittier Boulevard.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on January 8, 2024.

Virginia Santana, Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: April 2, 2024

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager

Subject: Information and Referral Reports

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the Information and Referral Report for August 2023 – March 2024.

BACKGROUND

None.

DISCUSSION

Staff prepared the Information and Referral report and hereby submits the report for Commission's review. The report will provide a summary of the calls for service, the information presented, and a summary of any local events or trainings offered to residents (Attachment A).

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

A. I & R Report – August 2023 – March 2024

I & R Summary Report August 2023

In the month of August 2023, we received a total of 261 calls. High incoming calls Dial-A-Ride. Continued to get calls for senior housing and services provided by the city and county. Received calls seeking legal assistance.

Senior Transportation: (25.67%)

- City and County Dial-A-Ride
- New Freedom Transportation
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Some offer transportation for medical appointments only)

City/County Services: (13.41%)

- Dept of Public Social Services (CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Rental Assistance)
- Social Security Administration
- Veterans Administration
- Senior Services (SASSFA, Adult Day Care, Health Insurance)
- Volunteer Work

Benefits: (13.86%)

- In-Home-Support-Services (IHSS)
- Senior Services (SASSFA-Caregiving and meals)
- Veterans Administration
- Social worker/Case Manager from Health Plans
- Social Security Administration

Housing: (22.29%)

- Los Angeles Community Development Authority (LACDA)
- LINC Housing (Seniors)
- TSA Properties (Seniors and Families)
- Veterans Administration
- Housing Rights Center (HRC) Rental Directory

Legal: (6.90%)

- Bet Tzedek (Trust & Wills)
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (Social Security, Student Loans)
- Housing Rights (Landlord Issue)

I & R Summary Report September 2023

In the month of September 2023, we received a total of 150 calls. High incoming calls Dial-A-Ride. Continued to get calls for senior housing and services provided by the city and county. Received calls seeking Covid services.

Senior Transportation: (33.33%)

- City and County Dial-A-Ride
- New Freedom Transportation
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Some offer transportation for medical appointments only)

City/County Services: (31.33%)

- Dept of Public Social Services (CalFresh and Medi-Cal)
- Social Security Administration (SSA and SSI)
- Veterans Administration
- Senior Services (SASSFA, Adult Day Care, Health Insurance)
- Home Repair Grants

Benefits: (6.45%)

- Social Security
- Senior Services (SASSFA-Caregiving and meals)
- Veterans Administration

Housing: (9.09%)

- Los Angeles Community Development Authority (LACDA)
- LINC Housing (Seniors)
- TSA Properties (Seniors and Families)
- Veterans Administration

Veterans: (8%)

- Whittier Library
- Liberty Community Plaza

Covid: (4.67%)

- Covidtests.gov
- County of L.A. Public Health
- Health Plans

Utility Assistance: (8%)

- Community Resource Center
- SCE / GAS Programs

I & R Summary Report October 2023

In the month of September 2023, we received a total of 180 calls. High incoming calls Dial-A-Ride. Continued to get calls for senior housing and services provided by the city and county. Received calls seeking homeless services.

Senior Transportation: (42.22%)

- City and County Dial-A-Ride
- New Freedom Transportation
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Some offer transportation for medical appointments only)

City/County Services: (19.44%)

- Dept of Public Social Services (Homeless, CalFresh, & Medi-Cal)
- Social Security Administration (SSA)
- Veterans Administration (Homeless)
- Senior Services (SASSFA & Health Insurance)
- Homeless Services (Salvation Army, First Day, LAHSA)

Benefits: (6.67%)

- Social Security
- Senior Services (SASSFA-Caregiving and meals)
- Veterans Administration
- Meals on Wheels

Housing: (12.78%)

- Los Angeles Community Development Authority (LACDA)
- LINC Housing (Seniors)
- TSA Properties (Seniors and Families)
- Veterans Administration
- Homeless Programs

Veterans: (2.78%)

- Whittier Library
- Liberty Community Plaza

Utility Assistance: (7.22%)

- Community Resource Center
- SCE / GAS Programs

I & R Summary Report November 2023

In the month of November 2023, we received a total of 222 calls. Continue calls for transportation and senior services in all human service areas. Incoming calls for homeless services and programs.

Senior Transportation: (20.27%)

- City and County Dial-A-Ride
- New Freedom Transportation
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Some offer transportation for medical appointments only)

City/County Services: (24.32%)

- Dept of Public Social Services (CalFresh and Medi-Cal)
- Social Security Administration (SSA and SSI)
- Veterans Administration (Benefits)
- Senior Services (SASSFA and Health Insurance)
- Home Repair Grants (City and County)
- Housing Rights Center (Legal and Rentals)
- Community Resource Center (Medical, CalFresh, and Legal)
- Whittier First Day (Homeless)
- Salvation Army (Homeless)

Benefits: (16.22%)

- Social Security
- Senior Services (SASSFA-Caregiving and meals)
- Veterans Administration (Health and Caregiving)
- Center for Health Care Rights (Medicare)
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (SSA and SSI)

Housing: (24.32%)

- Los Angeles Community Development Authority (LACDA)
- LINC Housing (Seniors)
- TSA Properties (Seniors and Families)
- Veterans Administration
- Adult Protective Services (Home Safe Program)
- Housing Rights Center
- First Day (Homeless)
- Salvation Army (Homeless)

Veterans: (2.70%)

- Whittier Library
- Liberty Community Plaza

I & R Summary Report December 2023

In the month of December 2023, we received a total of 160 calls. Continue calls for transportation and senior services in all human service areas. Incoming calls for homeless services and programs.

Senior Transportation: (23.75%)

- City and County Dial-A-Ride
- New Freedom Transportation
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Some offer transportation for medical appointments only)

City/County Services: (18.75%)

- Senior Services (SASSFA)
- Home Repair Grants (City and County)
- Housing Rights Center (Legal and Rentals)
- Community Resource Center (Christmas events)
- City of Whittier (Christmas events and Taxes)

Benefits: (21.88%)

- Social Security
- Senior Services (SASSFA-Caregiving and meals)
- Veterans Administration (Health and Caregiving)
- Center for Health Care Rights (Medicare)
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (SSA and SSI)

Housing: (18.75%)

- Los Angeles Community Development Authority (LACDA)
- LINC Housing (Seniors)
- TSA Properties (Seniors and Families)

Taxes: (3.13%)

- City of Whittier (Senior Center)

I & R Summary Report January 2024

In the month of January 2024, we received a total of 328 calls. High incoming calls for tax preparation and callers seeking legal help. Continued to get calls for senior housing, transportation, and services provided by the city and county.

Taxes: (35.15%)

- City of Whittier
- Rio Hondo
- Liberty Community Plaza
- SASSFA

City/County Services: (14.63%)

- City of Whittier (Activities for all ages)
- Dept of Mental Health (Counseling & Hoarding)
- Department of Public Social Services (Rental assistance/Families/Single Adults and Food)
- Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority (SASSFA) Senior Services

Legal: (5.49%)

- Bet Tzedek (Trust & Wills)
- Housing Rights Center (Landlord issues)
- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (Government benefits)

Housing: (5.79%)

- TSA Properties (Seniors & Disabled)
- Los Angeles Community Development Authority (LACDA) Seniors & Disabled
- LINC Housing (Seniors and Disabled)
- SCRS (Disabled)

Senior Transportation: (20.12%)

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Transportation for medical appointments only)

Utilities: (3.66%)

- Community Resource Center
- SCE and Gas Co. Programs

I & R Summary Report February 2024

In the month of February 2024, we received a total of 266 calls. High incoming calls for tax preparation and senior center services. Continued to get calls for transportation, and services provided by the city and county.

Taxes: (52.94%)

- City of Whittier (Senior Center)
- Rio Hondo
- SASSFA
- Liberty Community Plaza

City/County Services: (13.92%)

- City of Whittier (Taxes, Transportation, Veterans, and Voting)
- Dept of Mental Health (Counseling)
- Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority (SASSFA) (Senior Services, employment, and taxes.)
- Parks (Voting)

Benefits: (16.24%)

- Dept of Public Social Services (DPSS) (CalFresh and General Relief)
- Social Security Admin (Medicare and Disability)
- Whittier Library (Veteran Benefits)

Housing: (10.26%)

- TSA Properties (Seniors & Disabled)
- LINC Housing (Seniors and Disabled)
- SCRS (Disabled)

Senior Transportation: (25.19%)

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Transportation for medical appointments only)

I & R Summary Report March 2024

In the month of March 2024, we received a total of 285 calls. High incoming calls for tax preparation and senior center services. Continued to get calls for transportation, and services provided by the city and county.

Taxes: (28.77%)

- City of Whittier (Senior Center)
- Rio Hondo
- SASSFA
- Liberty Community Plaza

City/County Services: (13.92%)

- City of Whittier (Family Activities, Home Modification Program, Taxes, Transportation, Veterans, Volunteer, and Voting)
- Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority (SASSFA) (Senior Services, employment, and taxes.)
- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Habitat for Humanities (Home Repair Grant)
- Whittier Senior Center (Lunch program, activities, and services)

Benefits: (16.24%)

- Dept of Public Social Services (DPSS) (CalFresh)
- Social Security Admin (Medicare and Disability)
- Whittier Library (Veteran Benefits)
- Center for Health Care Rights (Medical and Medicare benefits)

Legal: (5.96%)

- Bet Tzedek (Trust & Wills)
- Housing Rights Center (Landlord and Tenant Issues)
- Los Angeles County Consumer & Business Affairs (Fraud and Scam)

Senior Transportation: (28.42%)

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- Health Plan (Transportation for medical appointments only)



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: April 2, 2024

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager

Subject: 2023 Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and approve recipients for the 2023 Whittier Volunteer Recognition award.

BACKGROUND

Annually, commissioners review the nominations for the Whittier Volunteer Recognition program to honor outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in volunteer service for the Whittier Community.

DISCUSSION

Volunteer Nomination Applications were sent to non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups in Whittier. Nominee service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier. Religious, fraternal, City employees, City commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members were not eligible for nomination.

Thirteen nominations were received. Commissioners will review the nomination forms and select recipients. An award ceremony will be held in April.

#	Agency	Nominees
1.	Assistance League of Whittier	Jan Sprague
2.	Boys & Girls Club of Whittier	Michael & Maxine Gimbel
3.	CAPC, Inc.	Richard Barrantes
4.	Murphy Ranch Little League	Albert Richards
5.	Murphy Ranch Little League	Dan Garibay
6.	Regency Church	Virginia Pierce
7.	The Whole Child	Alex Moisa
8.	Whittier Area Youth Soccer (WAYS)	Rudy Aldama
9.	Whittier Art Association & Gallery	Joann Libolt
10.	Whittier Chamber of Commerce	John Bogdanov
11.	Whittier Host Lions	Ray Perez
12.	Whittier Pony Baseball	Eugene Aguirre
13.	Whittier Public Library	Wes Murray

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 3: Maintain and Enhance Quality of Life

Goal 4: Transparent and Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

A. 2023 Volunteer Recognition Award nominations



WHITTIER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY THE WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

**CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE SERVICE YEAR OF 2023**

Do you know someone extraordinary whose dedication deserves recognition? We're calling on you to nominate your standout volunteers for the Whittier Volunteer of the Year Awards!

Whether they've brightened lives through community service or sparked positive change, we want to honor those who've gone the extra mile.

Visit www.cityofwhittier.org to submit your nomination and let's shine a spotlight on these community members!

APPLICATIONS DUE:



MONDAY
FEBRUARY 5, 2024
BY 3:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL



(562) 567-9400

Assistance League of Whittier
Jan Sprague

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

The Volunteer Recognition awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community. Nominees devote their time, talent, and expertise on a volunteer non-paid basis to local non-profit organizations. Whittier is known for its strong volunteer ethic, and to date, more than 200 volunteers have been honored. They include representatives from non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups.

ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

Please note: Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier during 2023. Volunteers do not need to be city residents. Religious, fraternal, city employees, city commissioners, and other professional groups providing services only to their members are not eligible for nomination. Past recipients are eligible this year.

HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video files (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video files are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video file can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name *

Assistance League® of Whittier

Agency Address *

6339 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, CA 90601

Contact Name *

Delia Morales

Contact Phone Number *

562/756-3231

Contact Email Address *

busd77@gmail.com

Nominee Information

Nominee Name *

Jan Sprague

Contact Phone Number *

714/482-5942

Contact Email Address *

spraguejan7@icloid.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

none

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

President, and Member

Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

300

Frequency of service in 2022 *

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Ad hoc

Other: _____

Overall length of time they have served their agency *

0-1 year

2-5 years

6-10 years

11-15 years

15-20 years

20+ years

Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Ms. Sprague has been an outstanding active member for over 20 years. She had been President two consecutive years; Chair for ten years of 'Operation Holiday' a program providing Christmas dinners and wrapped gifts to families recommended by the Whittier Salvation Army-she does the shopping, wrapping of gifts and delivery; participates at all 'Operation School Bell' (purchases new school clothes for our unhoused Whittier students in grades k-8;) works twice a month at our Bargain Bin Thrift shop to raise funds for our programs; Co-Chaired 'Action Week' collecting 750 books for the Salvation Army's Library; Co-Chair for 'Wee Wardrobe' organizing shopping, and making layettes packets for newborn and foster babies without newborn essentials at PIH Health Hospital; attending monthly and various committee including fund raising event meetings; a SUPER STAR of ALW!

If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Boys & Girls Club of Whittier
Michael & Maxine Gimbel

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Boys & Girls Club of Whittier

2. Agency Address *

7905 S. Greenleaf Ave

Whittier, CA 90602

3. Contact Name *

Christine Singer

4. Contact Phone Number *

5622014564

5. Contact Email Address *

christines@bgcw.org

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Michael & Maxine Gimbel

7. Contact Phone Number *

213-760-4323

8. Contact Email Address *

maxinetwo@yahoo.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

Boys & Girls Club of Whittier

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Volunteer

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

over 50 hours

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Continued on next page.

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

Maxine & Mike Gimbel

2023 Volunteer of the Year application

Michael and Maxine Gimbel stand as exemplary nominees for Volunteer of the Year at the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier, having selflessly dedicated their time and efforts to the organization since the 90s. Their enduring commitment, initiated under the leadership of Executive Director Georgenia Schmidt, has created a lasting impact. What sets the Gimbels apart is the multi-generational nature of their service. Inspired by their social friends who were once members as children, Michael and Maxine have passed on the tradition of volunteering to our organization to their daughters and grandchildren, resulting in over 30 years of collective family involvement. Their decision to give back is a testament to the profound connections forged within the club's community. Whether sponsoring the golf tournament, contributing hours to the Annual Gala, or showcasing their dedication at the Holiday Hotcakes events, the Gimbels have become an integral part of the club's success. What makes their contribution even more remarkable is that Maxine and Mike prefer to be behind the scenes, showcasing a remarkable humility. Philanthropy is more than an activity for them; it is deeply ingrained in their family culture, reflecting a commitment to making a positive impact without seeking recognition. Nominating Michael and Maxine Gimbel is an acknowledgment of their individual contributions and a recognition of the enduring legacy of service and community they have cultivated at the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier.

Insert Photos

CAPC, Inc.
Richard Barrantes

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

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Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

CAPC, INC

2. Agency Address *

7702 Washington Ave, First Floor

Whittier, CA 90602

3. Contact Name *

Shauna Steele

4. Contact Phone Number *

951-334-5622

5. Contact Email Address *

shauna@capcinc.org

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Richard Barrantes

7. Contact Phone Number *

213-247-4892

8. Contact Email Address *

rinobarr@yahoo.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

CAPC, INC

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Board President

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

400+

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Richard has served as board president since 2021. During his tenure he successfully lead the organization through COVID recovery. Richard is active and participates at all leaves in our organization from social to business events.

We are very excited to nominate Richard for Volunteer of the Year,

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

Murphy Ranch Little League
Albert Richards

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Murphy Ranch Little League

2. Agency Address *

7550 Colima Road, Whittier, CA 90605

3. Contact Name *

Christine Garibay

4. Contact Phone Number *

626-688-6338

5. Contact Email Address *

MRLLCristine@gmail.com

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Albert Richards

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-351-3917

8. Contact Email Address *

aerich1964@gmail.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

Murphy Ranch Little League

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Board Member & League Treasurer

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

1200

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Please see attached

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

So often, when they ask about Murphy Ranch the next question they often ask is Albert Richards is still involved in the league. Albert Richards is a staple of Murphy Ranch Little League. Albert has been a board member for Murphy Ranch for over 20 years. He has served the league in many different capacities from league president, coach, manager, umpire in chief, field maintenance coordinator, and league treasure. Three seasons ago Albert started our Junior Umpire program, teaching and training 13–15-year-old boys and girls the rules and fundamentals of being an umpire. And many of these kids are now paid umpires to this day. Albert loves Murphy Ranch, and he takes so much pride in the league. Our fields today at both Orchard Dale Elementary School and at our Murphy Ranch complex are beautiful thanks to the countless hours and work that Albert has put in to making them look so pristine and professional. On any given weekend during the baseball season, you can catch him up at the Ranch flipping burgers in the snack shack, umpiring a majors game, walking around as Board Member of the day, or just up there as a spectator catching a game.

Albert's dedication and love for the league never waivers. He is dedicated to making the league better and gives 100% of himself all the time to the league and the community. We are thankful for all that Albert and given to our League and we are lucky to have him, his experience, and knowledge.

Murphy Ranch Little League
Dan Garibay

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Murphy Ranch Little League

2. Agency Address *

7550 Colima Road, Whittier, CA 90605

3. Contact Name *

Christine Garibay

4. Contact Phone Number *

626-688-6338

5. Contact Email Address *

MRLLCristine@gmail.com

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Daniel Garibay

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-686-7892

8. Contact Email Address *

MRLLDanielGaribay@gmail.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

Murphy Ranch Little League

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Board Member & Player Agent

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

1500

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Please see attached

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

Daniel Garibay started volunteering at Murphy Ranch League in 2013 as an assistant coach for his oldest son. Daniel became a manager in 2015 and in 2016 he was recruited and became a board member, serving as the league's registrar and now as the league's player agent, making him responsible for all 730+ players in the league and making sure that every team in the league is drafted both fair and balanced. Daniel has been a post-season All Star coach and manager for the past 6 years. Daniel also handles all the scheduling for the league for both practices and games. This is no easy task for a league of our size and essentially every free hour between the months of December thru March are dedicated to getting the upcoming season scheduled and up and running.

Daniel is well respected by all the parents and players within the league. At the start of this season we receive numerous requests by both parents and players alike requesting to have their player placed on his team. Dan has a special way about him that allows him to get through to the kids and help them learn and grow as both a baseball player and good person. Daniel not only teaches kids the fundamentals of baseball, but he also teaches them about good sportsmanship, making good choices, responsibility, honor, and respect on and off the ball field.

Regency Church
Virginia Pierce

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Regency Church

2. Agency Address *

7058 Pickering Avenue

Whittier CA 90602

3. Contact Name *

Stephanie Torres

4. Contact Phone Number *

626-643-1302

5. Contact Email Address *

stephanie@regency.church

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Virginia Pierce

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-458-4103

8. Contact Email Address *

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

Rea

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Fishes & Loaves

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

20 years

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Virginia has been a faithful servant to the community for over 20 years
Her desire to make sure no one goes hungry has been an inspiration
to us all.

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

The Whole Child
Alex Moisa

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

The Whole Child - Mental Health & Housing Services

2. Agency Address *

10155 Colima Road

Whittier, CA 90603

3. Contact Name *

Constanza Pachon

4. Contact Phone Number *

562-692-0383

5. Contact Email Address *

cpachon@thewholechild.org

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Alex Moisa

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-322-3517

8. Contact Email Address *

amoisa@aol.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

The Whole Child - Mental Health & Housing Services

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Volunteer - Board Chair

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

150

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Alex Moisa is the epitome of a nonprofit leadership volunteer. As 2022-2023 Board chair, embodied strong stewardship of our organization and support of me as CEO. He engages TWC in Whittier life, representing us at events such as the Business Expo, Holiday Parade and community meetings. He ensures community involvement in TWC through Board recruitment and fundraising. Above all, Alex embraces our mission as an advocate to empower children, youth and families toward healing, health and homes.

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

Whittier Area Youth Soccer (WAYS)
Rudy Aldama

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video files (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video files are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video file can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Whittier Area Youth Soccer (WAYS)

2. Agency Address *

P.O. Box 4723

Whittier, CA 90607

3. Contact Name *

Veronica Islas

4. Contact Phone Number *

650-207-7636

5. Contact Email Address *

communications@whittiersoccer.org

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Rudy Aldama

7. Contact Phone Number *

323-864-2093

8. Contact Email Address *

coachrodo@aol.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

Whittier Area Youth Soccer (WAYS)

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

President

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

725-750

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

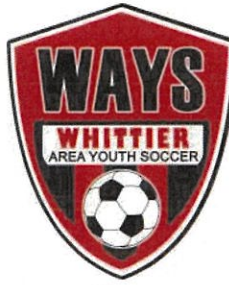
- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Please see attached statement.

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:



Subject: Nomination for Rudy Aldama - City of Whittier's 2023 Volunteer of the Year

Dear Nomination Committee/Selection Panel,

I am writing to enthusiastically nominate Mr. Rudy Aldama for the prestigious title of Volunteer of the Year in the City of Whittier for 2023. Rudy's unparalleled dedication and selfless contributions to the Whittier Area Youth Soccer (WAYS) program over the past 30 years make him an outstanding candidate for this esteemed recognition.

Rudy's journey as a volunteer began when he generously offered his time as a coach for his son. However, his commitment and passion for fostering a love of soccer within the community did not stop there. Over the years, Rudy has worn many hats within WAYS, serving as a coach, assistant coach, and even taking on the role of a referee.

Twelve years ago, Rudy took on an even greater responsibility by joining the Board of Directors. For the past five years, he has served as the President, demonstrating exceptional leadership and dedication to the organization's success. Rudy's strategic vision and tireless efforts have significantly contributed to the growth and prosperity of WAYS.

What sets Rudy apart is his hands-on involvement on game days and practices. He goes above and beyond, always willing to lend a helping hand where needed. Rudy has also proven to be an empathetic listener, providing support to parents and helping them resolve concerns, fostering a positive and inclusive soccer community.

Recently, Rudy has retired from his role on the Board of Directors, marking the end of an era in his remarkable service to WAYS. It is only fitting that we recognize and celebrate his selfless contributions to the soccer community by honoring him as the City of Whittier's Volunteer of the Year for 2023.

Rudy's legacy is not just measured in years served but in the countless lives he has positively impacted. His unwavering dedication has played a pivotal role in the development and well-being of thousands of kids in our community. Rudy Aldama embodies the spirit of volunteerism and community service, making him an exceptional candidate for this esteemed award.

Thank you for considering Rudy Aldama for the City of Whittier's 2023 Volunteer of the Year. His contributions are immeasurable, and I am confident that recognizing him with this honor would be a fitting tribute to his outstanding service.

Sincerely,

Veronica Islas
Vice President of Communications and Community Relations
communications@whittiersoccer.org
65-207-7636



Whittier Art Association & Gallery
Joann Libolt

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

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ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

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HOW TO NOMINATE:

To nominate that special person(s) in your organization, you just need to complete the Award Nomination form below. Please include a description of the volunteer's service and its impact on the organization, and the community at large. Submissions may include photographs, video files (no longer than two minutes), scrapbooks, or brochures of the organization. The submission of photographs and video files are highly encouraged. Submissions will not be returned. A PDF or video file can be sent if the survey link cannot be accessed.

Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name *

Whittier Art Association and Gallery

Agency Address *

8035 Painter Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602

Contact Name *

Pam Korporaal

Contact Phone Number *

562-714-4758

Contact Email Address *

pamk1@mac.com

Nominee Information

Nominee Name *

Joann Libolt

Contact Phone Number *

(562) 708-0757

Contact Email Address *

jolibolt@gmail.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

None

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Co-Vice President of Exhibitions

Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

500+ Scheduling, take-in, take-out set up of shows as well as receptions

Frequency of service in 2022 *

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

Overall length of time they have served their agency *

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

As a current Board member and past president, I would like to nominate Joann Libolt, chair of the Whittier Art Association and Gallery's Exhibition Committee, for the City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year Award. Joann schedules and coordinates all of the Whittier Art Gallery's exhibits and rentals. Her vast past experience with the Ten Women Gallery in Santa Monica has given her the skills needed to expand the quality of our shows, which has enabled us, since 2015, to expand from 10 exhibits per year, to nearly 20 exhibits, representing culturally diverse, high quality, 2D, 3D and photographic artwork, as well as 3 student (K-8 grades)shows in all media.

If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

 Joan Libolt WAA...

If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file

Joann Libolt
Whittier Art Association and Gallery's 2023 Volunteer of the Year Nominee

Joann Libolt moved to Whittier in 1964 to live on Washington Avenue with her 18 month old son, and has made Whittier her hometown from that point to present.

There are many deserving people, and a number of those work tirelessly in positive directions because of Joann's leadership. She has a way of listening to the input of all involved and developing teams of people to complete needed tasks. Without those "people skills", it is possible that some long-time folks would have left along the way.

Ms Libolt is a fine artist, a chosen artist at the Hillcrest Fine Arts Show as well as a committee member for the Hillcrest. She has been know to climb a 10 feet ladder to make the lights shine proudly on a piece of artwork at the Gallery.

Joann's exhibitions work for the Whittier Art Association and Gallery began long before the 2023-24 fiscal year. As a Life Member of our Association, she has served more than 15 years as a leader who has contributed to the amazing success of our historic nonprofit Association and Gallery. She has strongly supported our Association's objectives as stated in the Bylaws, striving to provide quality exhibits of fine arts and crafts, and art education, at no charge to the general public. I would like to nominate Joann Libolt to be honored as recipient of the City of Whittier, Volunteer of the Year Award.

Pam Korporaal
Vice President of Marketing and Publicity
Whittier Art Association and Gallery Board

Whittier Chamber of Commerce
John Bogdanov

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

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Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name *

Whittier Chamber of Commerce

Agency Address *

8158 Painter Ave., Whittier, CA 90602

Contact Name *

Alyson Tietze

Contact Phone Number *

562-698-9554

Contact Email Address *

alyson@whittierchamber.com

Nominee Information

Nominee Name *

John Bogdanov

Contact Phone Number *

323-697-4637

Contact Email Address *

john.bogdanov@telworxinc.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

Whittier Chamber of Commerce

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Ambassador Chair

Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

100+

Frequency of service in 2022 *

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: All of the above.

Overall length of time they have served their agency *

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

John Bogdanov has been a Chamber member since 2018, an Ambassador for three years and is now our Ambassador Chair. John is an amazing candidate for Volunteer of the Year because of his unwavering dedication to helping not only the Chamber staff, but our members and the Whittier business community as a whole.

John has easily donated over 100+ hours of his time to assist with anything the Chamber needs. He assists with the Ambassador meetings and outings, he regularly attends all Chamber events, including ribbon cuttings and networking events such as Wake Up Whittier, Tasty Tuesdays, Thirsty Thursdays and many more. He also attends and assists with the set up and take down of all of our large events, including the Hathaway Golf Classic, the Silver Shield Awards Banquet, the Business Expo and our annual Installation Dinner.

Anytime the Chamber needs help John is always willing to step in. When we needed a speaker for our Nonprofit Network, John volunteered. When we needed someone to speak on behalf of a business that donated a prize for our 25 Days of Giveaways for the holidays, John volunteered. John is basically an extension of the Chamber staff. John Bogdanov is extremely deserving of the 2024 Volunteer of the Year award.

NONPROFIT NETWORK

CONNECT, LEARN, AND EXPLORE TOGETHER!



SPEAKER:
JOHN BOGDANOV
TELWORX



January 26, 2024

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.



East Whittier YMCA

15740 Starbuck St.,
Whittier, CA 90603

**LEARN THE CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES FACED BY NONPROFITS
AND HOW TO ADDRESS THEM**



Lack of
Resources



Technical
Planning



Staying Current
with
Technology

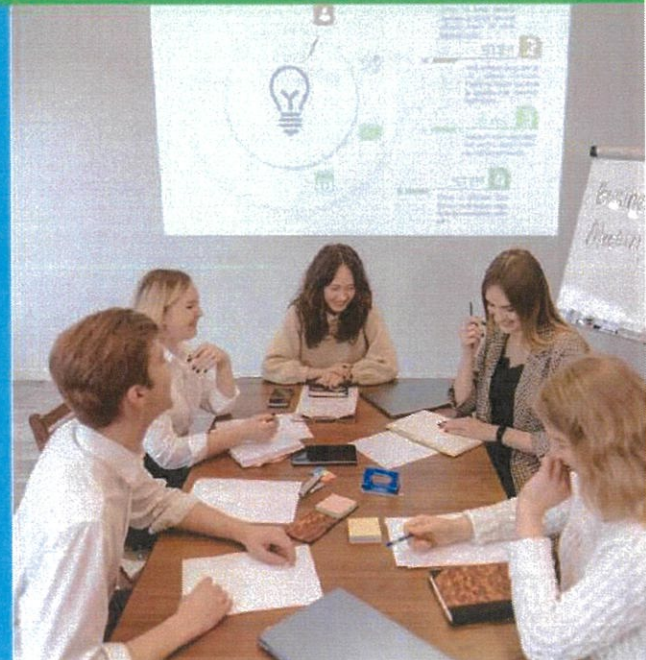


Networking
Opportunities

A FREE benefit of membership for Chamber member nonprofits, organizations and service clubs.

Nonprofit organizations are challenged every day to keep the cause alive, to nurture the relationships that engage people, secure funding, and deliver crucial services to those who need them.

The Whittier Chamber of Commerce presents an opportunity for nonprofit managers to mastermind solutions, with other successful nonprofit leaders around the most pressing issues that threaten the survival of nonprofits. **50 of 69**



Whittier Host Lions
Ray Perez

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

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ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

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Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Whittier Host Lions Club

2. Agency Address *

PO Box 245

Whittier, CA 90608

3. Contact Name *

Steve Cauffman, President

4. Contact Phone Number *

949-533-4501

5. Contact Email Address *

jstevecauffman@gmail.com

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Ray Perez

7. Contact Phone Number *

310-892-1719

8. Contact Email Address *

mperez.1719@yahoo.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

Whittier Host Lions Club

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Member of WHLC, Chairman of Civic Affairs Committee

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

580

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: weekly, monthly and special project hrs.

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

see attached PDF

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

Mr. Ray Perez
Whittier Host Lions Club Member
2023 Service Year

As the President of the Whittier Host Lions Club, I am privileged to be responsible to nominate a candidate for the Whittier 2023 Volunteer of the Year. There are many in our organization that give a lot of their time and treasure, but one person stands out to me for this honor. The reason for this is this person is perhaps the hardest working, most selfless individual, with the best and most positive outlook that I have ever had the privilege of knowing. I am very proud to nominate Ray Perez as our nominee.

Ray joined the Whittier Host Lions Club in 2017 and has been eager to learn of our Club's organization and wasted no time to jump into full participation in our numerous philanthropic efforts. Ray never has to be asked to show up to anything, and always arrives the earliest to set up and stays the latest to clean up. From the start, Ray asks questions to learn about the structure of the Club and quickly became our Civic Affairs Chairman, which is responsible for the receiving and vetting of requests from Whittier area charitable organizations for funds and grants. Ray has grown the participation in his committee through one-on-one outreach to members, making the Civic Affairs Committee one of the most active and respected committees in the Club. In addition, Ray works on the Sight Fair Committee, the "Sight For Kids" Fundraising Committee, the BBQ Committee, and the Goodwill Committee which hosts breakfasts for student groups, teacher organizations, the YMCA, and other Whittier area groups of giving citizens and recognizes them for their hard work.

Ray also takes on tasks not associated with specific Club committees as well. This last fall he took it upon himself to set up a food drive for the Interfaith Food Center for the holidays and personally handled getting the collected items to the center. Ray was a large part of our Club's "Shop with a Lion" event before Christmas, where we provided \$120 gift cards to the children and their mothers who were staying at the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter to shop at the Burlington Store. Outside the Lions Club, Ray works with the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter to help maintain their facilities and volunteers with fund raising efforts for the Whittier Museum.

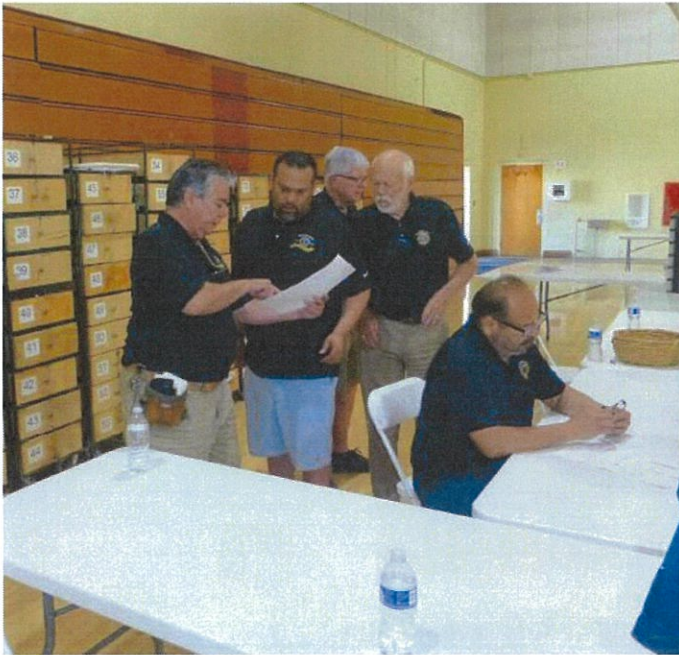
Ray Perez truly stands out as a special person in our community. It speaks so loudly when an individual steps up without being asked, and goes above and beyond, and then never expects to be recognized. This defines Ray – he is a quiet soldier who has a giant heart.

Respectfully

Steve Cauffman
WHLC President #102



Ray Perez



Ray Perez training new members at the Sight Fair at the Sierra Vista High School gym.



Preparing for the arriving citizens for the free eye exams and prescription glasses. The day saw and examined more than 150 citizens for glasses.



Ray prepping the kitchen for the annual "Sight For Kids" event at the Whittier Community Center.



Ray led the Lions parade entry by helping march the banner down Greenleaf.

Whittier Pony Baseball
Eugene Aguirre

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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ELIGIBILITY FOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOMINEES:

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Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Whittier Pony Baseball

2. Agency Address *

10963 Valley View Ave Whittier, CA 90604

3. Contact Name *

Glenn Costello

4. Contact Phone Number *

562-715-6813

5. Contact Email Address *

gcostello@earthlink.net

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Eugene Aguirre

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-397-1660

8. Contact Email Address *

eugeneaguirre64@icloud.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

Whittier Pony Baseball

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Team Manager

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

Countless

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- other: Daily during baseball season

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Eugene Aguirre has dedicated over 25 years of service to our community. Eugene h

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual

Eugene Aguirre has dedicated over 25 years of service to our community. Eugene began coaching during the time his two boys participated in our league, and also dedicated his time as a board member for WPB. Eugene has continued on as a coach, even after his boys have now graduated from college. Eugene has become a fixture at Whittier Pony, where he remains our longest tenured manager in our league. Loyal volunteers, such as Eugene, allow our program to excel as the largest youth baseball program in Whittier. During our yearly struggles to find parent volunteers, we can always count on Eugene to manage a team for us. Eugene is also great communicator. He mentors our kids to look out for each other and become "TEAM" players. His teams are always competitive and his "Bronco Angels" each become a baseball family every season!

Whittier Public Library
Wes Murray

2023 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

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Applications are due:

Monday, February 5, 2023 by 3:00 PM to gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org

* Indicates required question

Nominating Agency Details

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Whittier Public Library

2. Agency Address *

7344 Washington Ave

Whittier, CA 90602

3. Contact Name *

Rachel Fiore

4. Contact Phone Number *

562-567-9943

5. Contact Email Address *

rfiore@cityofwhittier.org

Nominee Information

6. Nominee Name *

Wes Murray

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-201-0131

8. Contact Email Address *

wam032340@aol.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2022 *

Veterans Resource Center

10. Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

VRC volunteer

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2022 *

160

12. Frequency of service in 2022 *

Mark only one oval.

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Ad hoc
- Other: _____

13. Overall length of time they have served their agency *

Mark only one oval.

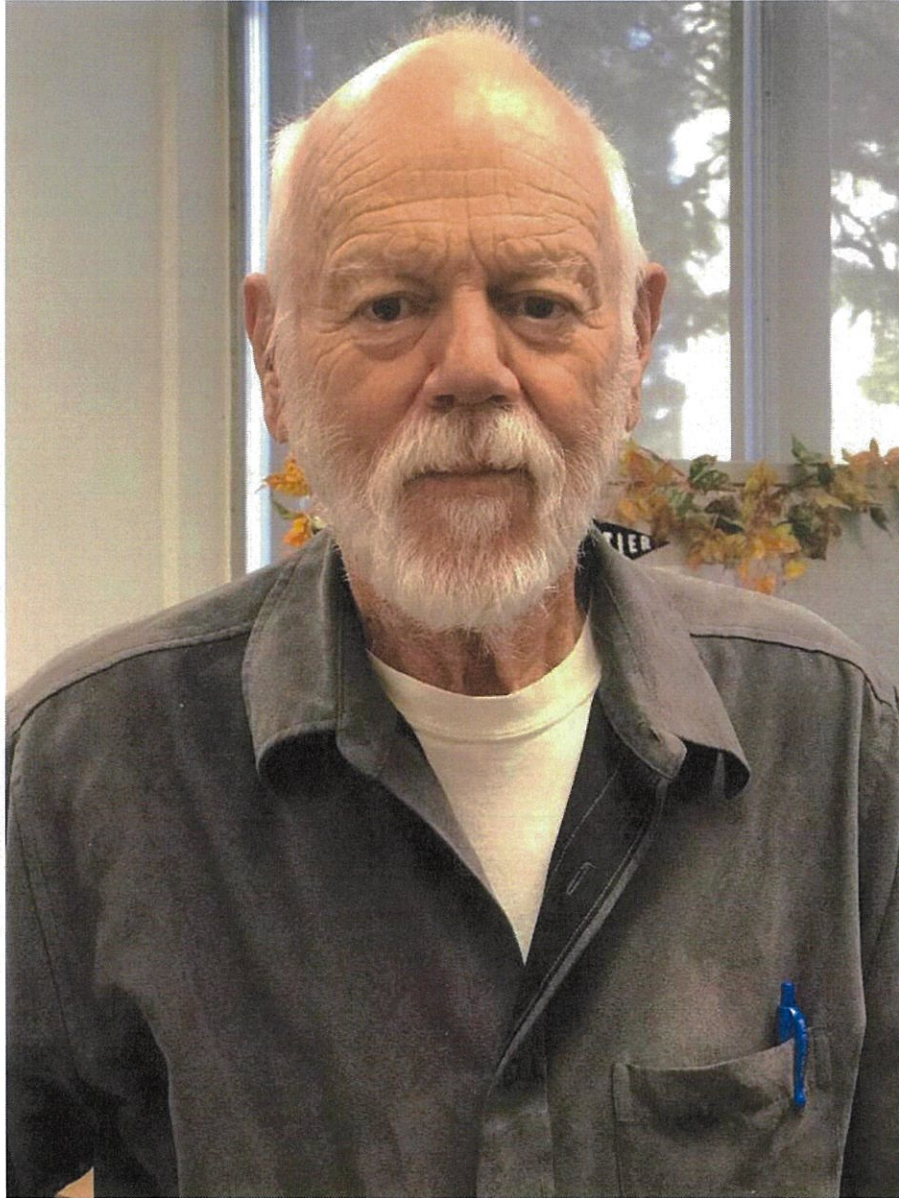
- 0-1 year
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15-20 years
- 20+ years

14. Describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Wes Murray is an exemplary candidate for the Volunteer of the Year. Since the inception of the VRC in 2014, Wes has demonstrated unwavering dedication and commitment to his role. Notably, he has never missed a shift, showcasing his reliability and steadfast work ethic. Wes actively engages in all VRC outreach events, contributing significantly to the center's community impact. Wes Murray's consistent and selfless service makes him a standout choice for Volunteer of the Year, embodying the spirit of volunteerism and making a lasting impact on the VRC.

15. If you would like to submit more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF

Files submitted:







Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: April 2, 2024

To: Social Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager

Subject: 2024 Whittier Scholarship Program-Sponsored by Athens and Republic Services

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and select the 2024 Whittier Scholarship Program recipients.

BACKGROUND

Included in the contract service agreements with Athens Services and Republic Services is the requirement to have a Scholarship program for students that are Whittier residents within one of the service providers' areas. Annually, the Social Services Commission reviews the criteria for the program prior to application distribution.

On September 26, 2017, the City Council approved solid waste collection and recycling franchise agreements with Athens Services and Republic Services. Included in the contract service agreements with Athens Services and Republic Services is the requirement to have a Scholarship program for students that are Whittier residents within one of the service providers' areas.

Each year five (5) scholarships of \$500 each for college-bound students living in the Athens services area and four (4) scholarships of \$500 each for college-bound students living in the Republic Services area are made available. To promote the scholarship program local High Schools spread the information on campus and Staff shares the opportunity on the City's social media platforms.

DISCUSSION

The 2024 Whittier Scholarship Program was advertised by the City and both franchise haulers through their respective social media and all the local High Schools in the surrounding area were also contacted to share the opportunity with their students. Scholarship applicants wrote an essay on the theme of Local Composting and Recycling Made Easy. This year's theme asked students to review the recycling policy of Athens or Republic Services to learn more about contamination. Explain why contamination in recycling is problematic and discuss how residents and businesses could improve their local recycling to reduce contamination.

The essay contest is open to college-bound graduating high school seniors who are residents of the City of Whittier. Six eligible essays were received: three essays from the Athens Services area and three from the Republic Services area. Essays will be evaluated based upon creativity, relevance, social and environmental impact, inclusion of local sustainability ideas, and a vision for the future. Submissions will also be judged based upon the use of sources and correct citations. Decisions made by the judges are final.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 3: Maintain & Enhance Quality of Life

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Entries for the 2024 Whittier Scholarship Program

ATHENS ESSAY #1

██████████
Athens and Republic Services

Scholarship

04 March 2024

How to Reduce Contamination in Recycling

Contamination in the placement of products in waste bins leads to many dangers and environmental consequences. First, if a certain amount of waste product enters a recycling facility then they most likely get rid of that load because it is more cost-effective to put the waste in a landfill. Second, it can increase prices for other recycling materials/products. So I recommend companies and restaurants a method I call the Costco method.

According to my research on the definition of recyclable items, this includes paper, cardboard, glass, metal, rigid plastics, and beverage cartoons; yet, this depends on the city in which recycled goods are recycled. For example, in the city of Norwalk you can put plastic utensils in the recycling but in other cities, including Whittier, you cannot.

What is recycling contamination? The short answer is contamination in recycling means anything in your recycling bin that shouldn't be there. This is why it is recommended to look into your local city recycling guidelines. This is important, because if we have too much contamination the cost is ultimately borne by taxpayers. It reduces the value of recycling materials, and it could lead to them having to dispose of them rather than being made into new products. Contamination in recycling also costs a lot of money, because sometimes dangerous chemicals reside in recyclable items, causing hazardous material for waste management workers.

This is where my Costco method comes in. Every time I go to Costco and I get samples, I have to ultimately throw away the little cups they give me. I readily see the bins for disposing of waste, and I really like these bins! Why? Because they clearly label what can go in and what can't. This is made easy because they have vision aides clearly marked on the bins.

I feel that every restaurant, company, and small business can help us in our local location to know what can be recycled and what can't by putting visual aids on bins. This is also to make it so that everyone can see what is and what is recyclable because now they don't have to go on websites or worry about a language barrier. This should be taught to children from an early age at home because then they will carry this knowledge and habit with them later in life. If this habit is developed at a young age, then this method and concern about contamination would not be carried on the shoulders of businesses alone.

ATHENS ESSAY #2

5 February 2024

Recycling Contamination

Contamination in recycling refers to non-recyclable materials or materials not accepted by local recycling programs being mixed in with recyclables. This causes major problems in the recycling process and reduces the amount of material that can ultimately be recycled. One of the most problematic types of contamination occurs when residents or businesses place materials with food residue - like used pizza boxes or takeout containers - into their recycling bins. These wet and soiled materials can ruin whole batches of paper meant for recycling.

The most common problem occurs when food or liquid is not completely removed from recyclable plastic or paper containers. Excessive contamination increases processing costs for recycling facilities and can lead to usable materials ending up in the landfill. In the worst cases, an entire batch of recycling has to be thrown out due to too much contamination.

Residents can help reduce contamination in several key ways. First, they should familiarize themselves with the local recycling guidelines and only place accepted materials into bins - no matter how recyclable an item seems. Keeping recycling separate from trash, especially food and liquids, is also essential. Some simple prep, like rinsing food containers, also helps reduce contamination from residues.

Businesses play a major role as they generate a significant recycling volume in a community. They should train staff on what is recyclable and ensure containers are clearly labeled. Monitoring public recycling bins on business premises and installing more bins if existing ones overflow with trash can also prevent contamination issues. For larger companies,

conducting audits periodically to identify problem areas for improvement demonstrates commitment to recycling properly.

If everyone does their small part to recycle correctly, it can make a big difference. Reducing contamination ultimately helps increase the local recycling rate and advance communities toward important waste diversion goals. With more mindful recycling habits that follow local guidelines, less usable material will end up lost to contamination or the landfill. We all have a role to play in preserving resources through responsible recycling.

ATHENS ESSAY #3

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3 March 2024

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Contamination in Recycling

Contamination in recycling poses a significant threat to the effectiveness of recycling programs, undermining the environmental and economic benefits associated with responsible waste management. The issue arises when non-recyclable items are included in recycling bins, leading to compromised material quality and increased processing costs. This contamination not only jeopardizes the recycling efforts made, but also contributes to the depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation.

Contamination occurs at various stages of the recycling process, from collection to sorting and processing. Common contaminants include plastic bags, food waste, and items with residual liquids. These materials can interfere with the efficient sorting of recyclables, damage machinery, and contaminate otherwise valuable materials, making them unsuitable for recycling. For instance, plastic bags can wrap around sorting equipment, causing malfunctions and delays. This results in additional expenses for recycling facilities and reduces the overall yield of high-quality recycled materials. A study conducted by the Recycling Partnership found that contamination rates in recycling bins across the United States average around 25%, emphasizing the urgent need for improved waste management practices. Proper education and awareness campaigns can play a pivotal role in addressing this issue. Residents and businesses must be


educated about the importance of sorting recyclables correctly and avoiding contamination. Municipalities and waste management organizations can collaborate with local communities to implement targeted educational initiatives.

One effective strategy is the promotion of clear and consistent recycling guidelines. Providing residents and businesses with easily accessible information on what can and cannot be recycled reduces confusion and minimizes the risk of contamination. The implementation of standardized labeling on recycling bins, accompanied by public outreach campaigns, can significantly improve compliance. Furthermore, incentivizing proper recycling practices can motivate individuals and businesses to adopt responsible waste disposal behaviors. Some communities have successfully implemented reward programs, offering incentives such as discounts or recognition for those who consistently recycle correctly. These programs create positive reinforcement and encourage a sense of community responsibility.

Collaboration between local governments, businesses, and residents is essential for fostering a culture of responsible recycling. Businesses can contribute by providing clear labeling on their products, indicating recyclability and disposal instructions. Additionally, they can participate in local recycling initiatives and support the development of sustainable packaging.

Contamination in recycling is a multifaceted problem that demands a concerted effort made by not only members of the community, but by government and businesses as well. Through education, clear guidelines, and collaborative initiatives, residents and businesses can significantly improve local recycling practices, reducing contamination and ensuring the continued success of recycling programs. By embracing responsible waste management, communities can contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future.

REPUBLIC SERVICES ESSAY #1



8 February 2024

War on Contamination

Contamination in recycling is a huge problem which must be put to an end. Contamination causes recycling items to be damaged and tainted and they can no longer be used. The contamination occurs when items are sorted into the wrong bin or items are not properly cleaned. An example of this is when a cup of coffee is tossed into the recycling bin. The coffee contaminates all the items which, prior to coming in contact with the coffee, were perfectly usable. In this example, all of these items that came into contact are now unable to be recycled and these items all end up in the landfill. Contamination can come in all shapes and sizes; dirty diapers, food waste, oil, and grease are all examples of contaminants.


In this struggle against contamination there are many solutions. One way to help limit contamination is to think about where an item should go. By simply thinking which bin each item should be put into, helps to eliminate contamination. Some items may be hard to distinguish which bin they should go into. There are many guides online to figure out exactly where the item should go, such as the Republic Residential Recycling Guide. This solution does not take much time and helps a lot in the long run so all of the items can be recycled and not go to the landfill.

In our community, an easy way for businesses to crush contamination is by having all the bins in one area so people do not have to search for the landfill or the recycling bin. Keeping them all together and having descriptions of what goes where will go a long way. These descriptions could be words or images but having both words and images would be even more helpful so there is no reason a person is unable to understand which bin is for which items. These descriptions must be clear enough that a small child could understand without the help of an adult, so even the young could prevent further contamination in our community.

Another way to combat contamination is the use of restrictive openings. These bins could have restrictive openings for certain items which would be smaller than the opening. These restrictive openings look like a small circular opening for drink containers, a larger opening for trash, and another size and shape for paper products. This would help to fight contamination by limiting the items that can fit into the different bins.

The battle against contamination will come to an end when we come together. Contamination cannot be stopped by a small group of people. All of us need to take a stand and do our part to better the recycling system and limit the amount of contamination. Together we can think about where items belong, place bins in a designated area together, and restrict the items which can go into the bins. We may never be perfect, but it is our duty to do better. We can all try harder for the benefit of our world and future generations.

REPUBLIC SERVICES ESSAY #2



March 4, 2024

Recycling: The Right Way

Recycling practices are ingrained in California citizens starting at a young age; when kindergarten classes begin reciting Reduse, Reuse, Recycle. However, most Californians remain ignorant to the realities of the recycling process, believing that sea turtles are saved the moment they toss waste into the blue bin. But it's not the recycling process itself that causes most recyclables to end up in landfills. Rather, the issue lies with the citizens' widespread unfamiliarity of contamination in recycling. By gaining awareness and consistency in their recycling habits, citizens can help protect their environment, and faith in the impact of recycling efforts.

Contrary to popular belief, only about 32% of all products dumped in US recycling bins make it past the first screening phase within waste removal plants. To make matters worse, making it past the screening stage does not ensure all materials are recycled into new products. Contamination in recycling occurs when any non-recyclable materials find their way into the collection process. Non-recyclables can range from the wrong types of plastic or trash, to anything spoiled by food waste or similar remnants. Any form of contaminant that is detected in the screening process plagues the whole recycling load until removed by a sorter at the recycling facility. As a result, "Contamination costs the material recovery facilities that sort recyclables at least \$300 million per year in additional labor, processing, and machinery repairs" (Blanco et al.). Besides wasted money, time, and energy, when contaminants are found too frequently in the load, the whole load becomes a waste that is sent directly to the landfill. Wasted loads are likely

collected from multiple households, causing even properly recycled materials to be trashed by another's mistake.

Although the scrutiny of contamination can make recycling efforts seem like a waste altogether, there are various solutions to make recycling more effective and efficient. Conveniently for Californians, these solutions can be simplified under the acronym CA - Consistency and Awareness. Awareness refers to citizens learning about how to properly recycle, and the potentially unique systems that may exist in their city. The first step can be achieved by reading through the terms of waste providers, contacting them with any questions regarding their service, and keeping track of the products collected by the provider. Additionally, learning to recognize different materials for sorting and aspects of materials that could become contaminants, such as a plastic coating inside of some aluminum cans and cardboard cartons. Once awareness is achieved, recycling must be practiced with consistency in order to make an impact. Consistency can be as simple as creating charts to place on recycling bins, that remind users of the acceptable versus unacceptable products. Another important aspect is remembering to wash any food contaminants off of recyclable goods. Assigning someone to the task of washing recyclables - whether it be a chore in a household or an employee in a business - ensures the whole load retains its integrity. Integrity is necessary within all respects of a functional recycling system, as both users and providers are responsible for keeping the process effective. If individuals, in their households or places of business, intend to uphold their end of the deal, they must begin to adopt these solutions and improve the recycling process - one conscious toss at a time.

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REPUBLIC SERVICES ESSAY #3

04 March 2024

Contamination in Recycling

In the world that we live in today, we must take the initiative to protect our planet in any way possible, but we must be mindful about how we do it. “Recycling” contaminated items is just as problematic as throwing it straight into the trash. One of the easiest and most beneficial ways we can keep the environment and ourselves clean is by ensuring that when we recycle, we actually do it right.

Contamination in recycling is a huge issue, for a number of reasons. Firstly, health risks are likely to occur when recycled goods aren’t properly cleaned. If food waste isn’t removed from the items recycled, the new products made from our recycled goods may contain biological waste that could harm the people who use them. For example, the cardboard in pizza boxes cannot be used if it is soaked in grease or covered in old cheese or toppings. The whole point of recycling is to reduce waste and improve the environments that we live in, but if we recycle haphazardly and don’t take the action seriously, the reason behind why we recycle should just be thrown in the trash. Additionally, when recyclables are contaminated, the machines used to sort and repurpose the items can malfunction and even break down, putting the waste workers who operate the machines at risk. Air pollutants from biological waste and the broken machinery are only some of the harmful impacts of contaminated recyclables. The time, money, and effort needed to fix these machines directly counteracts the point that recycling should save money. At its core, the primary reason that contamination occurs is because most residents and businesses

do not recycle purposefully. The common belief is that *Hey, as long as I put all of my paper, cardboard, glass and the like in the blue bin, I'm set!* But this just isn't true. In order to eliminate the problem of contamination in recycling, we have to shift our recycling habits.

For residents, the first suggestion may seem counterintuitive, but one of the best ways to reduce recycling contamination is by not using things that need to be recycled. Opting to use reusable items or items with very little packaging removes the possibility of contamination altogether. For example, one of the most commonly recycled items are plastic bottles, but when they aren't rinsed out, the plastic in them isn't as valuable and cannot be properly recycled. By choosing to use a reusable bottle, this issue is eliminated entirely. This tactic can be applied to anything; the recyclables we collect from makeup, shopping, groceries and more can all go away if we opt to use reusable items instead. Another suggestion is to simply set a recycling schedule in every household. An easy way residents can improve their recycling habits is by making sure that every day, they quickly look over their recyclables to clean them of any contaminants. All it takes is a rinse of a bottle or the cleaning of a box to recycle properly. This process is simple, yet effective and doesn't only work for residents, but can be implemented in businesses and the workplace as well. In the business world, office workers and business owners alike can improve their recycling habits by investing in suppliers that use less packaging and reduce their waste in general. For example, Nike's *Move to Zero* campaign is one that many other businesses can adopt. Their mission is to reduce as much unnecessary packaging as possible in the products in that campaign. By reducing both waste and recycling, they removed the problem of recycling contamination at its root. If more businesses employ suppliers that reduce waste and recycling, and if they are educated on how to properly recycle, the workplace won't have to deal with

contaminating their recyclable materials in the first place. If we learn what should be recycled not just what could be, our homes and places of work can be that much cleaner.

In short, by implementing these easy practices and by shifting our recycling habits, businesses and residents alike can work alongside our social services providers to create a more sustainable waste management system for all.