

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
APRIL 5, 2022, 6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Marisol Enriquez-Santos
Commissioner Jose Luevano
Commissioner Kathleen McDonnell
Vice Chair Loletta Barrett
Chair Carlos Illingworth

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. Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. 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 March 1, 2022.

5.B. INFORMATION AND REFERRAL REPORT

Recommendation: Receive and file the Information and Referral Report for the period of December 2021, January, February, and March 2022.

5.C. 2021 WHITTIER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Recommendation: Discuss and approve recipients for the 2021 Whittier Volunteer Recognition award.

5.D. 2022 WHITTIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Recommendation: Award scholarships for the 2022 Whittier Scholarship Program.

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 1st day of April 2022.

/s/ Holly Hollmann

Holly Hollmann, Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: April 5, 2022

To: Social Services Commission

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

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 1, 2022.

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 March 1, 2022

**MINUTES
CITY OF WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
MARCH 1, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Illingworth, consistent with Executive Order No. N-25-20, called the regular meeting of the Social Services Commission to order at 6:33 p.m. on March 1, 2022.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Marisol Enriquez-Santos, Commissioner (Absent 6:33 – 6:36 pm)
Jose Luevano, Commissioner
Kathleen McDonnell, Commissioner
Loletta Barrett, Vice Chair
Carlos Illingworth, Chair

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT:

Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Erin Hamilton, Community Services Manager
Holly Hollmann, Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Manager Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Secretary Hollmann reported no public comments were received.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner McDonnell, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett, and carried 5-0 by roll call vote, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 1, 2022.

5.B. COVID-19 Non-profit Recovery Grant Application FY 2021-22

Secretary Santana thanked the Commission for their work scoring the applications. She opened the discussion on the ranking order for the applications received; she stated that Whittier Area First Day was ranked at #1 with a total application score of 99.80, The Whole Child was ranked #2,

SPIRITT Family Services was ranked #3, Hispanic Outreach Taskforce was ranked #4, YMCA was ranked #5, the Ozzy Foundation was ranked #6, PIH Health Foundation was ranked #7, and the Whittier Historical Society was ranked #8. Secretary Santana stated that an agency's display of the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was an area of the application that weighed heavily on the scores to meet the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant requirements.

Secretary Santana opened the discussion on funding allocation. Vice Chair Barrett made a correction to her allocation amount for the Whittier Historical Society to \$46,611. Commissioner McDonnell made a correction to her allocation amount for Whittier Area First Day to \$150,000. Chair Illingworth made a correction to his allocation amount for Whittier Area First Day to \$150,000.

Secretary Santana opened the discussion on the #1 ranked agency, Whittier Area First Day; she stated that the average recommended amount was \$130,324.20. Commissioner Luevano stated that he decided to fund below the requested amount for budgetary reasons, however he is comfortable with funding them higher than his suggested amount. Vice Chair Barrett agreed with the sentiment expressed by Commissioner Luevano. Commissioner Luevano suggested funding them at \$150,000. The Commission agreed with the amount recommended.

Secretary Santana opened the discussion on the #2 ranked agency, The Whole Child; she stated that they request \$30,000 and the average recommended amount was \$22,995.20. Commissioner McDonnell stated that she chose to fund below their requested amount because their budget narrative did not match their requested amount. Commissioner McDonnell stated additionally, they requested funds to pay employee's that are out due to COVID, however, the California supplement pay was reinstated retroactively which would cover those costs. Vice Chair Barrett agreed with the statements made by Commissioner McDonnell; she stated in addition, some of these organizations reviewed in a previous grant process, received funding, and wanted those organizations that did not receive funds previously to be considered for funds this time. Commissioner McDonnell stated that at no fault of The Whole Child, they received federal funding throughout the pandemic, so they did not necessarily show the devastating impact COVID had on their ability to fundraise, aside from not being able to host their annual Gala. Commissioner Luevano suggested recommending an even \$20,000. The Commission agreed with the amount recommended.

Secretary Santana opened the discussion on the #3 ranked agency, SPIRITT Family Services; she stated they requested \$45,000, however there were a lot of differences in the recommended amount suggested by each Commissioner. Commissioner Enriquez-Santos stated that she based the recommended amount on the population served. Commissioner Luevano stated that he chose to fully fund based on the quality of programs they offer. Commissioner McDonnell stated she chose to fund below their requested amount because

their budget narrative did not match their requested amount. Chair Illingworth stated that he chose to fund below their requested amount for budgetary reasons; he stated in addition they did not submit a more recent IRS Form 990 which was a concern. Vice Chair Barrett stated that their services are important, however she wanted to ensure she had funding for the remaining agencies. Commissioner Luevano suggested funding \$15,000. The Commission agreed with the amount recommended.

Secretary Santana opened the discussion on the #4 ranked agency, the Hispanic Outreach Taskforce; she stated that they requested \$25,000, in which three out of the five Commissioners chose to fully fund. Chair Illingworth stated that the Hispanic Outreach Taskforce has wonderful programs and services, however, he chose not to fully fund because their application did not show the devastation COVID-19 had on their agency. Commissioner McDonnell stated that she chose to fully fund due to the lack of other funding sources available to their agency. Commissioner McDonnell stated that COVID-19 has affected their annual backpack event because of the public health guidelines set for mass gatherings; she stated in addition, they may be able to hold the event but whether the public attends is out of the agency's control. Commissioner Luevano stated that he echoed the sentiment of Commissioner McDonnell. Commissioner Enriquez-Santos suggested \$20,000. Commission Luevano and Commission McDonnell agreed with \$20,000. Vice Chair Barrett was comfortable with the amount but would revisit if our remaining budget cannot support other agencies. Chair Illingworth stated that he is comfortable with the amount, however, would like to stress the importance of applications displaying the devastating effects the COVID-19 pandemic had on their agency.

Secretary Santana opened the discussion on the #5 ranked agency, the YMCA; she stated that they request \$50,000 and each Commissioner suggested varying amounts. Chair Illingworth stated that he chose not to fund, because other applications' budget narratives were directly related to COVID-19 recovery, whereas the YMCA did not necessary display that detrimental impact of the pandemic. Commissioner Enriquez-Santos stated that she chose to fund low because the negative COVID-19 impacts they detailed in their application were in relations to closures and low memberships, which are situations most businesses and agencies experienced during the pandemic. Commissioner McDonnell suggested to fund \$20,000 because their agencies needed to furlough a great number of employees which is a detrimental impact of the pandemic, however she chose not to fully fund due to discrepancies in the budget narrative and their requested amount. Secretary Santana stated that their average recommended amount was \$17,658.80; she asked the Commission if they are comfortable with the average. Commissioner Luevano agreed with the concerns expressed by Commissioner Enriquez-Santos and recommends funding \$10,000. Commissioner McDonnell stated that with the average being \$17,000, \$10,000 is a stark difference. Commissioner Enriquez-Santos suggested \$15,000. Commissioner Luevano was comfortable with the amount but is concerned with running out of the budget as we approach the last couple of agencies. Chair Illingworth confirmed with the Commission that there were no objections.

Secretary Santana opened the discussion on the #6 ranked agency, The Ozzy Foundation; she stated they requested \$5,000. Commissioner McDonnell stated that she likes the mission of this organization, however, their application did not show the same devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that some of the other agencies displayed. Commissioner Enriquez-Santos stated that she chose to fully fund because majority of the population served by the Ozzy Foundation are seniors and they were heavily impacted by COVID-19. Chair Illingworth stated that their request was a drop in the bucket for such a great service to populations in need; Chair Illingworth suggested funding at the average amount suggested. Vice Chair Barret suggested funding at \$3,600. Chair Illingworth confirmed with the Commission that there were no objections.

Secretary Santana opened the discussion on the #7 ranked agency, The PIH Health Foundation; they requested \$345,791. Commission McDonnell stated that she chose to fund their application because hospital budgets suffered greatly during the pandemic when they could not perform surgeries; she stated in addition, PIH is one of the largest private employers in our city which would help COVID-19 recovery across our community. Commissioner Enriquez-Santos stated that she chose not to fund because she did not see the connection between their project and COVID-19 recovery efforts. Vice Chair Barrett stated that she understands the project may be essential to their services, however she did not see the loss they suffered like other agencies when furloughing employees. Commissioner Luevano agreed with the sentiments expressed by Vice Chair Barrett; he stated there was not enough of a loss or impact displayed in their application. Chair Illingworth suggested to not fund since the average amount was so small compared to their requested amount. Commissioner McDonnell stated that she is comfortable with not funding their request; she stated that it be expressed to PIH that their score was very close to the Whittier Historical Society and the Commission did not believe the average amount of \$8,000 would go very far towards their requested amount so it was allocated elsewhere.

Secretary Santana opened the discussion on the #8 ranked agency, the Whittier Historical Society; she stated they request \$70,000. Commissioner Luevano stated that he chose to fund them at \$50,000 because their application highlights the negative impacts of COVID-19 they felt in two separate categories; however, he did not fully fund because he did not see the connection of adding a grant writing position to staff and their COVID-19 recovery process. Commissioner Luevano stated that he wants to support their requests since it is a historical treasure in our society. Chair Illingworth stated that he chose not to fund because hiring a new position and the capital projects outlined in their application did not relate to their COVID-19 recovery. Commissioner McDonnell stated that she chose not to fund because it did not seem sustainable to hire a new position through grant funds; she stated there was no indication of how they would supplement the salary if they do not receive their entire requested amount. Secretary Santana stated that their application mentions not being able to host their two fundraisers, also utilities and rent continued even though entrance was closed to the public which was

detrimental to their budget. Commissioner McDonnell recommended funding them with the remaining balance. Vice Chair Barrett and Commissioner Luevano stated they would be comfortable funding them with the remaining balance.

Secretary Santana asked the Commission if there were any agencies they would like to revisit. Commissioner Luevano stated he is comfortable moving forward with the suggested final amounts. Chair Illingworth confirmed with the Commission that there were no objections.

It was moved by Vice Chair Barrett, seconded by Commissioner McDonnell, and carried 5-0 by roll call vote, to propose finding allocations for City Council consideration for the 2021/22 COVID-19 Non-Profit Recovery grant program.

6. SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

Secretary Santana thanked the Commission for their time and service working through this round of funding. She stated that the Senior Center design is coming along, and the team is looking forward to final plans. Secretary Santana stated that we have published the Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form and the Scholarship Application across all our social media platforms; she stated the deadline to submit for both is March 11, 2022.

7. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Enriquez-Santos thanked the Commissioners for doing a great job.

Commissioner Luevano thanked the Commissioners and Staff for their hard work and support.

Vice Chair Barrett stated that she found it difficult to navigate the Commissioner score sheet this time. She stated that the Commission had not seen any updates on the homeless plan for quite some time and if Council no longer needs the Commission's involvement for reviewing the progress on that, she would like to see a formal action for the removal of that responsibility from the Social Services Commission.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Approved and adopted by the Social Services Commission on _____.

Virginia Santana, Secretary



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: April 5, 2022

To: Social Services Commission

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

Subject: Information and Referral Report

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file the Information and Referral Report for the period of December 2021, January, February, and March 2022.

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, December 2021, January, February, and March 2022.

I & R Summary Report December 2021

As we end 2021 and, with tax season on the horizon we received calls regarding appointments and information. We are glad to announce that we will be taking appointments for taxes, which will be held at Palm Park, for the month of December we had a total of 35 calls regarding information for transit, legal Aide, senior benefits, assistance with utilities as well as Housing.

Free Tax Preparations (17.14%)

- CITY OF WHITTIER
- AARP
- SASSFA Tax Preparations
- Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)

Housing (11.43%)

- TSA housing
- Housing Rights Center
- LACDA

Senior Transportation (34.29%):

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- Butterfli
- Refer the individual to his/her health insurance company

Legal Services (17.14%)

- Bet Tzedek
- HERA
- CLA-LA

Utilities (11.43%)

- Edison
- SASSFA

Veterans (8.75%):

- Whittier Library
- Whittier Liberty Plaza
- Veterans Crisis Hotline

I & R Summary Report January 2022

For the month of January 2022, with tax season quickly approaching we received a high volume of calls regarding tax appointments, we also received calls for housing, Legal services, senior benefits, assistance with utilities as well as Housing; for the month of January, we had a total of 121 calls.

Free Tax Preparations (47.93%)

- CITY OF WHITTIER
- AARP
- SASSFA Tax Preparations
- Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)

Housing (1.65%)

- TSA housing
- Housing Rights Center
- LACDA

Senior Transportation (6.61%):

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- Butterfli
- Refer the individual to his/her health insurance company

Legal Services (14.88%)

- Bet Tzedek
- HERA
- CLA-LA

Utilities (7.44%)

- Edision
- SASSFA

I & R Summary Report February 2022

In the month of February 2022, with tax season quickly approaching we received a high volume of calls regarding tax appointments, we also received calls for housing, senior benefits, as well as transportation; for the month of February, we had a total of 120 calls.

Free Tax Preparations (76.67%)

- CITY OF WHITTIER
- AARP
- SASSFA Tax Preparations
- Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF)

Housing (2.53%)

- TSA housing
- Housing Rights Center
- LACDA

Senior Transportation (15%):

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- Butterfli
- Refer the individual to his/her health insurance company

Benefits (5.83%)

- SASSFA

I & R Summary Report March 2022

In the month of March 2022, although the AARP agency asked us to cancel our tax appointments for the months of February, we were able to give alternative numbers to agencies that are willing to assist our seniors with their taxes. We also received calls for housing, senior benefits, as well as transportation; for the month of March, we had a total of 88 calls.

Free Tax Preparations (76.67%)

- Liberty community Plaza
- Rio Hondo/ SASSFA Center
- M.A.O.F (Mexican American Opportunity Foundation)
- Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center
- El Monte Tax Assistance Center

Housing (9.9%)

- TSA housing
- Housing Rights Center
- LACDA

Senior Transportation (15%):

- City Dial-A-Ride
- County Dial-A-Ride
- ACCESS
- Butterfli

Benefits (5.83%)

- SASSFA



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: April 5, 2022

To: Social Services Commission

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

Subject: 2021 Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and approve recipients for the 2021 Whittier Volunteer Recognition award.

BACKGROUND

Annually, business and organizations nominate outstanding volunteers from their organization. Commissioners review the nomination forms for the Whittier Volunteer Recognition program that will honor outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community.

DISCUSSION

The closing date for nominations was March 11, 2022. Applications were sent to representatives from non-profit social service agencies, youth groups, schools, service clubs, and business volunteer groups in Whittier. Volunteer service hours must have been performed in the City of Whittier, but 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, but past award recipients are eligible this year.

Ten nominations were received. Commissioners will review the nomination forms and select recipients for an award ceremony later this year.

Agency

Assistance League of Whittier
 Boys and Girls Club of Whittier
 Boy Scouts of America Troop 985
 CAPC
 LA CADA
 Murphy Ranch Little League
 Shelter's Right Hand
 Whittier National Junior Basketball
 Whittier Police Department
 Whittier Pony Baseball
 Whittier Pony Baseball
 City of Whittier Public Works

Nominees

Deirdre Shatzen
 Erin Grace
 Marcello Infusino
 Neal Welland
 Elizabeth Watts
 Erica Ortega
 Monica Piedra
 Bill Wood
 Robert Verzani
 Glenn Costello
 Vince Banagas
 Glen McClure

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY

Goal 3: Maintain and Enhance Quality of Life

Goal 4: Transparent and Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

A. 2021 Volunteer Recognition Award nominations



PRESENTED BY THE WHITTIER
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

WHITTIER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

vol•un•teer

/,vælən'tir/

agent of change

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

For the service year of 2021

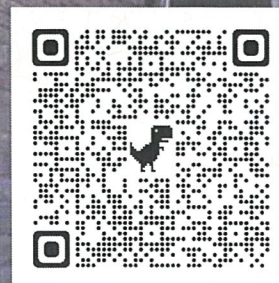
Volunteer Recognition Awards are presented annually to outstanding individuals who have gone above and beyond in giving to the Whittier community.

Application to nominate your outstanding volunteer of the year can be found at www.cityofwhittier.org or by scanning the QR code. For more information call (562)567-9400.

Applications are due:

Friday, March 11, 2022 by 3:00 PM 3 of 53

3230
Y HALL



Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

Presented by the City of Whittier Social Services Commission

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 2021. 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. 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. Submissions will not be returned.

Nominations forms can be filled out using the PDF application and submitted via email to pks@cityofwhittier.org or can be filled out using Google Forms: docs.google.com/forms. Video file submission are accepted.

Applications due by: Friday, March 11, 2022 by 3:00 PM

If you have any questions, contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at (562) 567-9400.

Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

2021 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

NOMINATING AGENCY DETAILS

1. Submitting Agency Name *

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF WHITTER6201
_____+

2. Agency Address *

6339 GREENLEAF AVENUE WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA 90601LIND

3. Contact Name *

LINDA CROWLEY

4. Contact Phone Number *

5622011669

5. Contact Email Address *

foothillcommish@men.com

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Please provide information related to the person you wish to nominate for the 2021 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year.

6. Nominee Name *

DEIRDRE (DEDE) SHATZEN

7. Contact Phone Number *

3106177768

8. Contact Email Address *

lsecret@earthlink.net

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF WHITTIE

10. Nominee Job Title (If applicable) *

MANAGER//CHAIRMAN OF BARGAIN BI

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this Agency in 2021 *

OVER 8,000 HOURS

12. Frequency of Service in 2021 *

Mark only one oval.

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Ad hoc

Other:

6 of 53

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. Please describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS DEDE HAS BEEN A VALUABLE MEMBER OF ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF WHITTIER. SHE HAS HELD MANY OFFICES AND POSITIONS, BUT MOST NOTABLY SHE IS OUR BARGAIN BIN THRIFT SHOP CHAIRMAN. OUR THRIFT SHOP IS OUR MAIN PHILANTHROPY FOR OUR CHAPTER. THE FUNDS RAISED IN THE BARGAIN BIN DIRECTLY HELP THOSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THAT ARE UNDERSERVED IN OUR WHITTIER COMMUNITY. DEDE HAS HELD OUR THRIFT SHOP TOGETHER STAFFING IT, COLLECTING AND SORTING DONATIONS AND WORKING EVERYDAY THE SHOP IS OPEN. HER COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO OUR CHAPTER AND ITS VALUES IS REMARKABLE.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS DEDE IS INVOLVED IN ARE:
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, ANIMAL RESCUE ASSOCIATION.

AS YOU CAN SEE, DEDE IS INVOLVED WITH MANY ORGANIZATIONS, ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF WHITTIER IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE HER AS A MEMBER,

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

Files submitted:

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

Files submitted:

Thank you for completing this application. The Social Services Commission will review all applications shortly. If you have any comments or questions, contact our office at (562) 567-9400

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 2021. 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.

Applications are due:

Friday, March 11, 2022 by 3:00 PM

Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name *

Individual: Jillian Infusino

Agency Address *

5556 Adele Avenue, Whittier, CA 90601

Contact Name *

Jillian Infusino

Contact Phone Number *

5625696871

Contact Email Address *

jillian.infusino@gmail.com

Nominee Information

Nominee Name *

Marcello Infusino

Contact Phone Number *

5628220233

Contact Email Address *

mginfusino79@gmail.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 985 in Whittier

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Assistant Scoutmaster and Patrol Advisor

Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2021 *

100+

Frequency of service in 2021 *

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 *

My dad has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster and Patrol Advisor in Troop 985 for over 12 years. Even after my brother has aged out of Boy Scouts, my dad has continued volunteering in the Troop and mentoring the next generation of young men. He has also served as the Eagle Scout Project Coordinator in the Troop, guiding over 15 young men during their Eagle Scout project process. He has been selected as an Eagle Scout mentor by several of the boys that he has mentored in Troop 985.

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

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

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:

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Applications are due:

Friday, March 11, 2022 by 3:00 PM

Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name *

Boys & Girls Club of Whittier

Agency Address *

7905 S. Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, CA 90602

Contact Name *

Stephanie Salas

Contact Phone Number *

945-3787 x 102

Contact Email Address *

stephanie@bgcw.org

Nominee Information

Nominee Name *

Erin Grace

Contact Phone Number *

562-777-5549

Contact Email Address *

eringraceteam@gmail.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

Violeta Shepard

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Realtor at Laurea Real Estate

Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2021 *

60

Frequency of service in 2021 *

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 soon as Erin learned about the Boys & Girls Club, she began volunteering, by leveraging her connections in the community to benefit the kids we serve. Last July, she ran a backpack drive at Fitness Resolute, with her business partner Lucy Spencer. Together, they gathered over 100 backpacks, filled them with school supplies, and donated them to the kids at BGCW.

Next, Erin threw her energy into gathering toys for our annual Operation Christmas event. She did a toy drive at Laurea Real Estate, and also at Fitness Resolute (both with partner Lucy Spencer). To top it off, she reached out to her connections with Los Angeles Fire Department's Sparks of Love Program, bringing in still more toys. She also helped set up all the toys for our family distribution day, which brightened the holiday for hundreds of community youth.

Finally, Erin agreed to serve as one of the community leader judges for our annual Youth of the Year event. Not only did she participate reliably as a judge, she also helped serve food to the awardee families at the final awards presentation.

Most recently, she committed to sponsor a hole in our upcoming golf tournament.

Erin has demonstrated positive enthusiasm for every volunteer opportunity that has been offered to her. That is the reason we would love to recognize her as our 2022 Volunteer of the Year.

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



Erin Grace Volun...

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

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms



eringraceteam • Follow
Boys & Girls Club of Whittier

eringraceteam Serving others has always been in my DNA. I'm SUPER blessed to be able to give back with my time and money. 🙏

I have volunteered almost my entire life in various capacities. Check the resume. 🙏 😊

I started as a child with the Red Cross following my mom as she volunteered

City Commissioner for the city of Pasadena (commission on the status of women, for those who may remember) I absolutely loved this group 🙏 @sylvajulia

Volunteer - City of Los Angeles' CRT program

President - the Event Planners Association
@kimssullivan
Board Member - Wish Upon a Wedding Los Angeles Chapter
@weddingplanner

👍 🗨 📌

Liked by oandez73 and 58 others

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Add a comment



eringraceteam • Follow
The Club of BGCW

eringraceteam Again, THANK YOU 🙏 to all who donated to the backpack drive! 🙏 🙏 🙏 There will be some pretty grateful kids receiving these bags in the coming days 😊 Together, @realtorlucyspencer her gym @fitnessresolute and myself gathered over 100 backpacks with your help. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏

30w

titlebyvero 🙏 🙏 🙏

30w 1 like Reply

rolandlayrealestate Love this! 🙏

30w 1 like Reply

👍 🗨 📌

Liked by peterodriguez_whittier and 51 others

JULY 28, 2021



eringraceteam • Follow
 Laurea Real Estate

eringraceteam This photo fills my heart! ♥ our organization was able to donate over 3 large boxes filled with toys for kids this holiday! We are still accepting donations. if you're interested in donating send me a message and I will come by and pick them up from you. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated! @bgcofwhittier @whittierchamber @laurearealestate

11w

peterodriguez_whittier ♥

11w Reply

♥ 💬 📌

Liked by oandez73 and 55 others

DECEMBER 8 2021

😊 Add a comment...



eringraceteam • Follow
 Boys & Girls Club of Whittier

eringraceteam Thankful. Grateful. Blessed. 🙏 thank you to everyone who supported us in this years toy drive. 🙌 The kids today had a blast! #realtor #community #givingback #realestate

10w

stephaniesalas12 🙌

10w 1 like Reply

lauresarosev87 Awesome ♥

10w Reply

armando.houstontexas Amazing work kudos 🙌🙌🙌

10w Reply

♥ 💬 📌


Liked by oandez73 and 73 others

DECEMBER 18 2021


😊 Add a comment...



 **eringraceteam** • Follow
Boys & Girls Club of Whittier

 **eringraceteam** Thank you to LA County Fire for your donation to the kids today. I appreciate you all and I know the @bgcofwhittier also appreciates you. 🙏🙏 thank you @gil_and_irene for your truck today! Collaboration wins again!!! ❤️

10w

 **peterodriguez_whittier** Dang!!!!
10w 1 like Reply

 **thelicegarcia** ❤️
10w 1 like Reply

 **lauresarosev87** ❤️

👍 🗨️ 📌

Liked by oandez73 and 95 others

DECEMBER 16, 2021

 Add a comment...

Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program 2021 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

NOMINATING AGENCY DETAILS

1. Submitting Agency Name *

CAPC, INC

2. Agency Address *

702 South Washington Avenue

Whittier, CA 90602

3. Contact Name *

Shauna Epting

4. Contact Phone Number *

62-351-8772

5. Contact Email Address *

shauna@capcinc.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Please provide information related to the person you wish to nominate for the 2021 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year.

6. Nominee Name

Neal Welland

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-351-8772

8. Contact Email Address *

shauna@capcinc.org

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

CAPC, INC

10. Nominee Job Title (If applicable) *

Board Chair

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this Agency in 2021

1525

12. Frequency of Service in 2021

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. Please describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

It is with great honor that CAPC, Inc is nominating Neal Welland as Whittier Volunteer of the Year. Neal Walland has held the position of Board President for CAPC, INC for the past 7 years. Resigning from is position as Board Chair in January 2022 after 7 years of dedication and service to CAPC, INC.

Prior to serving as Board Chair, Neal Welland served CAPC, Inc as Vice President of the Board, Member at Large and Volunteer facility handyman. CAPC, Inc can not express in words the total dedication that Neal has given to CAPC, Inc since joining the Board of Directors in 2008, what we can express this that CAPC, Inc would not be the same organization without the selfless dedication and support of Neal Welland.

In 2021 CAPC, Inc transitioned and recruited our new CEO/Executive Director Shauna Epting, Neal continued to exceed all expectation by stepping in up at acting Volunteer Executive Director to lead CAPC, Inc through a leadership changes and pandemic. Regardless of the task Neal is eager and willing to help clean, transport items for events or leading CAPC, INC operations. Neal has always been a shining example of volunteer excellence.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Shauna Epting - CEO/Executive Director
CAPC, INC

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

Files submitted:

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

Files submitted:

Thank you for completing this application. The Social Services Commission will review all applications shortly. If you have any comments or questions, contact our office at (562) 567-

9400



Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

2021 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

NOMINATING AGENCY DETAILS

1. Submitting Agency Name *

L A CADA

2. Agency Address *

L A CADA BLOOMFIELD/OUTPATIENT SITE

11015 BLOOMFIELD AVE.

SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA 90670

90670

3. Contact Name *

Lawrence Fernandez

4. Contact Phone Number *

562-661-3973

5. Contact Email Address *

lfernandez@lacada.com

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Please provide information related to the person you wish to nominate for the 2021 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year.

6. Nominee Name *

Elizabeth "Beth" Watts

7. Contact Phone Number *

714-360-9600

8. Contact Email Address *

hbbeth@yahoo.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

L A CADA / HISTORIAS PROGRAM

10. Nominee Job Title (If applicable) *

VOLUNTEER / ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this Agency in 2021 *

100+

12. Frequency of Service in 2021 *

Mark only one oval.

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Ad hoc

Other: As needed + special events **24 of 53**

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. Please describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Beth began as the sole volunteer for L A CADA's "HISTORIAS" Program. Which is the name given to the HIV Program/Services. Because of the on going stigma society has placed on HIV and those infected or affected by HIV or AIDS it takes a person with great compassion and sensitivity to chose to be a part of a serving body to help meet the needs of those underserved individuals. Beth is very kind and very giving and very talented. Knowing there were only two paid employees in our program and often times overworked Beth was and is still volunteering to do what ever needed to be done. She has been the only data input person our program has ever had. Because we had the foresight to collect data before it became required or mandated as it is now, we were the only program in our agency that had 10 years worth of data collect, recorded and presented because of Beth. And as a result afforded us the opportunity to refer to data collected when applying for funding. We will be forever grateful for that alone. But it doesn't stop there. She also volunteers at our community resource events that attract hundreds of people and requires many volunteers. Because of her expertise she will also supervise and train other volunteers before during and after the planning of our large events. in 2019, when L A CADA agreed to act as Fiscal Agent to the recently formed WHITTIER PRIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE focusing on the needs of the LGBTQ YOUTH in WHITTIER and the surrounding areas Beth also agreed to adopt the needs of that underserved population as well. She single handedly maintained the roster of the hundreds of volunteers that stepped up to participate in WHITTIER'S first ever "PRIDE" Festival. We anticipated maybe 1500-2000 people, there were 5000 to 8000 in attendance that day, It was amazing and Beth was an important part of that event before, during and after. Then came the "pandemic" and everything was turned upside or on lock down. We weren't able to allow anyone who wasn't a paid employee on site mainly because of their own safety. Because Beth isn't someone to sit idle, she began volunteering for meals-on-wheels and visiting shut-ins or fostering dogs for folks who are unable to care for them. We are now able to welcome Beth back in our offices and now she thinks she needs to make up for lost time but hasn't given up with her meals-on-wheels or her visits with her "special friends". As you can see Beth is truly one of a kind, from her years at Whittier High School in the 80's to a home owner in Sunset Beach/Huntington Beach the City of Whittier has never far from her heart and on her mind. We are all very fortunate for special people like Beth Watts

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

16. If you would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a file.
Files submitted:

Thank you for completing this application. The Social Services Commission will review all applications shortly. If you have any comments or questions, contact our office at (562) 567-9400

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 2021. 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.

Applications are due:

Friday, March 11, 2022 by 3:00 PM

Nominating Agency Details

Submitting Agency Name *

Murphy Ranch Little League

Agency Address *

PO Box 4371, Whittier, CA 90607

Contact Name *

Christine Garibay

Contact Phone Number *

6266886338

Contact Email Address *

mrlchristine@gmail.com

Nominee Information

Nominee Name *

Erica Ortega

Contact Phone Number *

213-392-0214

Contact Email Address *

mrsecortega@gmail.com

Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

Murphy Ranch Little League

Nominee Job Title (if applicable)

Auxiliary Board Vice President

Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this agency in 2021 *

Over 500 hours

Frequency of service in 2021 *

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 *

Erica Ortega is a vital part of Murphy Ranch Little League. She started volunteering for the league many years ago when her oldest son started playing baseball. She started out as a team mom and then became a volunteer on the auxiliary board, and eventually became the auxiliary board vice president two years ago. As a volunteer on our auxiliary board she is responsible for coordinating our opening day ceremony, she assists with family fun events, she assists with running our snack shack, as well as other tasks she volunteers to lead, and she still manages time to be a team mom for at least one of her 3 son's baseball teams. And not only does she volunteer for Murphy Ranch Little League, but she is also a volunteer at her boys' schools. It is no wonder that she has earned the name Saint Erica by the office staff at Murphy Ranch Elementary School. And that name has now carried over to our baseball league. Erica is truly a Saint. She is giving, caring, kind, and compassionate and she is definitely selfless. Erica is instrumental in helping our league run as smoothly as it does and as president of the league, I don't know what I would do without her!

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

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

2021 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

NOMINATING AGENCY DETAILS

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Shelter's Right Hand

2. Agency Address *

Shelter's Right Hand

12300 Washington Blvd.

Whittier, CA 90606

USA

3. Contact Name *

Lisa Gundersen

4. Contact Phone Number *

909-957-7095

5. Contact Email Address *

lisagundersen48@gmail.com

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Please provide information related to the person you wish to nominate for the 2021 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year.

6. Nominee Name *

Monica Piedra

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-556-2667

8. Contact Email Address *

monii.piedra@gmail.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

Shelter's Right Hand

10. Nominee Job Title (If applicable) *

President

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this Agency in 2021 *

Countless

12. Frequency of Service in 2021 *

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. Please describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Greetings Friends! On behalf of our Shelter's Right Hand Board, I would like to nominate Monica Piedra for being an incredible organizational President, Whittier community leader and humanitarian example. Under Monica's leadership, Shelter's Right Hand was able to gift \$135,000 in 2021 to the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter (WCCS) to improve and save lives affected by domestic violence in and around Los Angeles County. Despite our thrift shop being closed four months for the sake of public health, Shelter's Right Hand, an auxiliary to the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter was still able to raise \$95,000 by selling donated items to the public via our Thrift Shop on Washington Blvd. The remaining funds were raised thanks to generous donors and from money raised at our signature 5K walk event held each April.

Throughout the pandemic, our Board under Monica's leadership met monthly (virtually) to ensure continual progress was made leading up to last year's 25th Annual Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence virtual 5K walk. That's right, not even a pandemic could keep us down! Monica has worked daily to share social media posts, network at community events (Wake Up Whittier, Whittier Chamber, WCCS mixers at her home, etc.), keep committees on track, and ensure volunteers feel valued and appreciated. An example of how she was able to do this amid social distancing can be seen here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fFW00PNZZ7X5gG4E0aWu8wS0u-EfDo3G/view?](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fFW00PNZZ7X5gG4E0aWu8wS0u-EfDo3G/view?fbclid=IwAR1anxEsSuSMvL6O1vobMgwCLNr7faD-nL9oOCL8bwgpao9HP5gGiCYWPKE)

[fbclid=IwAR1anxEsSuSMvL6O1vobMgwCLNr7faD-nL9oOCL8bwgpao9HP5gGiCYWPKE.](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fFW00PNZZ7X5gG4E0aWu8wS0u-EfDo3G/view?fbclid=IwAR1anxEsSuSMvL6O1vobMgwCLNr7faD-nL9oOCL8bwgpao9HP5gGiCYWPKE)

When meeting with Mayor Vinatieri to endorse our walk leading up to last year's 25th Annual Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence virtual 5K walk, Joe indicated domestic violence was the #1 call Whittier Police Department receives which makes the lifesaving work we do under Monica's leadership incredibly essential. Afterall, what is more valuable than human life?

Due to the pandemic, we took our signature walk virtual for the second consecutive year in 2021. In doing so, we decided it best to share a virtual walk through Whittier experience with participants and the community. All of us learned historic information about Whittier and we got to highlight incredible servant leader and Whittier legend of a resident, Yoshio Nakamura as our Honorary Chair. One can watch footage of our virtual walk here: <https://youtu.be/yIQTSXUezqc> (Monica's voice is showcased). Happy to report since our walk, "Yosh" has added a postage stamp that honors all American soldiers of Japanese ancestry who served during WWII to USPS's arsenal and was interviewed on the History channel.

Ultimately, Monica Piedra is a humble and powerful "agent of change" asset to the Whittier community and humanity at large. Her tireless efforts to both the English and Spanish communities to selflessly improve others lives with the gift of hers is awe-inspiring. That said, our Board wishes to nominate Monica Piedra as 2021's Volunteer of the Year. And, we encourage you to save the date of April 23rd to join us in Whittier's Central Park for our 26th Annual Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence 5K that is focused on sharing awareness of a life saving campaign that started during the pandemic. Fortunately, word is being shared with law enforcement and domestic violence shelter's around the world to help save and improve lives affected by domestic violence.

Stay Safe and Healthy,

Lisa Gundersen
Shelter's Right Hand Co-Walk Chairperson
909-957-7095

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

- If you Files submitted:would like to submit a video file to support this application please attach a
16. file

Thank you for completing this application. The Social Services Commission will review all applications shortly. If you have any comments or questions, contact our office at (562) 567-9400

Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

2021 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

NOMINATING AGENCY DETAILS

1. Submitting Agency Name *

City of Whittier PRCS

2. Agency Address *

7630 Washington Ave. Whittier CA 90602

3. Contact Name *

RJ Saldana

4. Contact Phone Number *

562-567-9446

5. Contact Email Address *

rsaldana@cityofwhittier.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Please provide information related to the person you wish to nominate for the 2021 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year.

6. Nominee Name *

Bill Wood

7. Contact Phone Number *

(562)972-6970

8. Contact Email Address *

bill.wood55@aol.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

Whittier NJB

10. Nominee Job Title (If applicable) *

President

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this Agency in 2021 *

200+ Hours

12. Frequency of Service in 2021 *

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. Please describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Bill is currently the player agent and also creates the game schedules and is in charge of the leagues operations. Bill has been in charge for over 20 years and was president when I played as a child. He today remains a vital piece to the success of youth sports in Whittier. You can always find him taking care of the needs of players, parents and coaches in Whittier. He has ended up holding multiple positions to make sure that every kid that signs up is able to play. Without Bill and others Whittier NJB would most likely have to turn kids away. Bill's commitment as a volunteer enables all kids in the Whittier Community a chance to play youth sports.

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

Files submitted:

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

Files submitted:

Thank you for completing this application. The Social Services Commission will review all applications shortly. If you have any comments or questions, contact our office at (562) 567-9400

Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

2021 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

NOMINATING AGENCY DETAILS

1. Submitting Agency Name *

Whittier Police Department

2. Agency Address *

13200 Penn Street

Whittier, CA 90602

3. Contact Name *

Dominic Iraldo

4. Contact Phone Number *

562-846-5665

5. Contact Email Address *

diraldo@cityofwhittier.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Please provide information related to the person you wish to nominate for the 2021 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year.

6. Nominee Name *

Robert Verzani

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-652-7615

8. Contact Email Address *

rverzani@gmail.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

Whittier Police Department

10. Nominee Job Title (If applicable) *

Police Volunteer Lieutenant

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this Agency in 2021 *

641

12. Frequency of Service in 2021 *

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. Please describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Please refer to the attached narrative. Thank you.

See next page.

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

Files submitted:

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

Files submitted:

Thank you for completing this application. The Social Services Commission will review all applications shortly. If you have any comments or questions, contact our office at (562) 567-9400

I am nominating Robert “Bob” Verzani for the City of Whittier 2022 Volunteer Recognition Award, for his service to the City of Whittier during 2021. Bob is a police volunteer at the Whittier Police Department. He has served in this capacity for nearly a decade and is currently in a leadership position with the Program as a lieutenant. Bob is an invaluable asset to the Police Department and City as a whole.

Bob is the administrative lieutenant. In this role he serves as an important conduit for the Police Department as he regularly communicates with City officials, residents, and stakeholders in planning and coordinating City events throughout the year. He is extremely engaging and professional when interacting with others. He is also instrumental in assisting with making crucial leadership decisions at the staff level that affect the Volunteer Program. In the process, Bob has logged 641 hours during 2021. Since joining the Program, Bob has logged approximately 10,000 total hours.

I would like to provide some detailed context regarding how valuable of a police volunteer Bob Verzani is for the Whittier Police Department and City of Whittier. During 2021, Bob has: routinely assisted in transporting Police Department background packets to the background investigator in Riverside; planning and coordinating for the annual Baker to Vegas qualification race in Whittier (over 100 participants and over 50 volunteers for the event) as well as assisting on the race course for the actual race event, in which he goes without sleep for over 30 hours for the betterment of the team; assistant in the Traffic Bureau on a weekly basis with office work, traffic pedestrian decoy operations to maximize public safety, assists with DUI checkpoints on a monthly basis, the 2021 Motorcycle Rodeo in Huntington Beach, and routinely assists with traffic control at the scenes of significant traffic collisions; a contributor to the Department’s annual Family Adoption Project for community families in need during the holiday season; coordinator of police volunteers during the annual Christmas Parade as well as the City’s Tree Lighting event; assists Property & Evidence with transporting items to the LA County Crime Lab; coordinated and also assisted at the 2021 National Night Out event; assisted the Records Bureau with the shredding of an extremely large volume of outdated paperwork; assists SWAT with their training during range or movement days when they are in need of police volunteers as role players or range assistance; assisted the Detective Bureau with washing their vehicles, to maintain a professional image.

As an administrative lieutenant, Bob regularly keeps all police volunteers abreast of events and fundraisers occurring in which volunteers are needed. He communicates important Department updates provided by Chief Bar one or more times each week. He is also constantly monitoring the Police Volunteer Integrated Managing System in terms of scheduling and hours for events, and those volunteers who sign up for the events posted.

The aforementioned information is just a portion of all that Bob does for the City of Whittier and its Police Department. Even when we are in a bind and no other police volunteers are not available, Bob has stepped up countless times to take on whatever the request was, and he did so with such a positive attitude. Bob embodies the Police Department Value Statement’s main points, which are: Service to our Community, Integrity, Responsibility & Accountability, Professionalism, and Pride.

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" Bob certainly has answered that question with his continued and consistent service and leadership to the City of Whittier and its citizens as a Police Department volunteer.

Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

2021 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

NOMINATING AGENCY DETAILS

1. Submitting Agency Name *

PRCS Sports and Facilities

2. Agency Address *

Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Ave
Whittier CA 90602

3. Contact Name *

Nanette Palacios-Duron

4. Contact Phone Number *

562-567-9441

5. Contact Email Address *

nduron@cityofwhittier.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Please provide information related to the person you wish to nominate for the 2021 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year.

6. Nominee Name *

GLENN COSTELLO

7. Contact Phone Number *

(562) 322-5681

8. Contact Email Address *

gcostello@earthlink.net

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

Whittier Pony Baseball

10. Nominee Job Title (If applicable) *

Player Agent

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this Agency in 2021 *

Endless number, over 500 hours in 2021

12. Frequency of Service in 2021 *

Mark only one oval.

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Ad hoc

Other: both seasons spring & Fall

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. Please describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Whittier Pony Baseball wouldn't be the organization it is today without the dedication of Glenn Costello. Glenn wears many hats within our organization, all of which are crucial to the day-to-day of Whittier Pony. As our player agent, he is in charge of registration for the whole league, juggling over 800 registrants from across different age groups and making sure that they are placed in the appropriate position to learn and grow. Glenn creates the game schedules and is in charge of the leagues website. In his role, Glenn is the point of contact for every family involved with the organization and has guided so many over the years. Apart from his work as a player agent, Glenn oversees the umpires and the rules and even manages the Champions Division for our players with special needs.

You can always find him taking care of the fields, equipment and just making himself available to anyone that needs help. He has ended up holding multiple positions to make sure that every kid that signs up is able to play. Without Glenn and others Whittier Pony would most likely have to turn kids away. Glenn's commitment as a volunteer enables all kids in the Whittier Community a chance to play youth sports. Glenn has genuinely dedicated a part of his life to the league, and for that reason, we would like to nominate him 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:

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

Files submitted:

Thank you for completing this application. The Social Services Commission will review all applications shortly. If you have any comments or questions, contact our office at (562) 567-9400

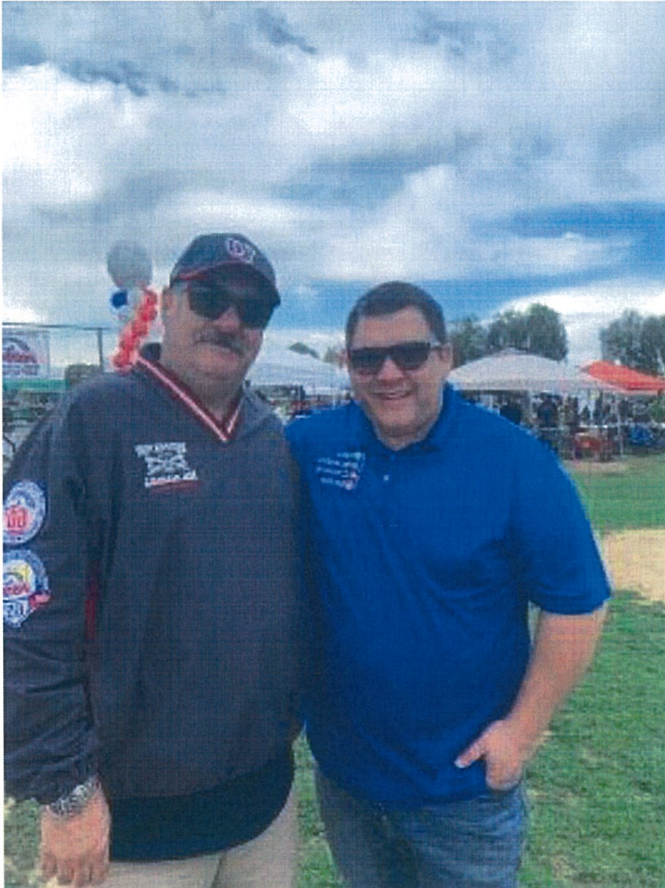
GLENN COSTELLO: Whittier Pony Baseball

Over the years, Mr. Costello has been a staple of Whittier Pony Baseball. He serves as the Player Agent, which oversees more than 800 participants every season. Glenn is organized, patient, professional, and it is always a pleasure to work with him. PONY's goal is to provide an environment that enhances the participants' self-esteem and physical mobility and embodies the spirit of teamwork and community. Mr. Costello continued efforts to ensure that the youth of Whittier have a safe environment to play baseball is what makes him the ideal volunteer for Whittier Pony Baseball.

Apart from his position as Player Agent, Mr. Costello also oversees the CHAMPION DIVISION for Whittier Pony Baseball. The Champion's Division provides every child, regardless of special needs, the opportunity to participate in America's favorite pastime of baseball and softball.

Glenn does a fantastic job with the Champions. He recruits, schedules, and coaches the participants and makes sure they're all having a great and safe time.

For his heart of gold and continuous dedication to Whittier Pony and the youth of Whittier, we believe Glenn Costello should be considered for Volunteer of the Year.



Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

2021 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

NOMINATING AGENCY DETAILS

1. Submitting Agency Name *

PRCS Sports and Facilities

2. Agency Address *

Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Ave
Whittier CA 90602

3. Contact Name *

Nanette Palacios-Duron

4. Contact Phone Number *

562-567-9441

5. Contact Email Address *

nduron@cityofwhittier.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Please provide information related to the person you wish to nominate for the 2021 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year.

6. Nominee Name *

Vince Banagas

7. Contact Phone Number *

8. Contact Email Address *

vincebanagas@gmail.com

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

Whittier Pony Baseball

10. Nominee Job Title (If applicable) *

Equipment Manager / Bronco Commissioner

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this Agency in 2021 *

Over 200 hours in 2021

12. Frequency of Service in 2021 *

Mark only one oval.

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Ad hoc

Other: fall season and spring 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. Please describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Vince has been a pillar in our organization for years, working as a commissioner while also managing all the equipment for the league. In 2021 though, he went beyond the call of duty when he took on the role of a manager when no one else would. Vince is currently the Bronco Division Manager and Equipment Manager. You can always find Vince taking care of the fields, equipment, and just making himself available to anyone that needs help. He and others always end up holding multiple positions to make sure that every kids that signs up is able to play.

He has continuously given his time to the organization and developing the athletic abilities of our children. Without volunteers like Vince, Whittier Pony would most likely have to turn kids away. They step up to help the kids in our community more than most. For his dedication, leadership, and positive demeanor, we nominate Vince Banagas 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:

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

Files submitted:

Thank you for completing this application. The Social Services Commission will review all applications shortly. If you have any comments or questions, contact our office at (562) 567-9400

VINCE BANAGAS – Whittier Pony Baseball

Vince Banagas has volunteered countless hours to the Whittier Pony Baseball. He has gone beyond the call of duty, juggling two roles as Bronco Commissioner and league Equipment Manager. As a commissioner, he communicates effectively with all our managers within the division, providing support and resolving any conflict that arises. With his ability to work with all age groups, from our countless participants to their families and staff, Vince is always smiling, cheerful, and willing to assist wherever needed. As Equipment Manager, Vince always has the safety of the 800 plus participants in mind when determining what is required to keep the league moving forward. The City of Whittier and Whittier Pony Baseball is very grateful for his time and dedication. For that reason, we believe Vince is the ideal candidate for Volunteer of the Year.



Whittier Volunteer Recognition Program

2021 Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form

NOMINATING AGENCY DETAILS

1. Submitting Agency Name *

City of Whittier Public Works Department

2. Agency Address *

13230 Penn Street

3. Contact Name *

Veronica Barrios/Retired PW Streets Manager, Howard Miller

4. Contact Phone Number *

562-567-9500

5. Contact Email Address *

vbarrios@cityofwhittier.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Please provide information related to the person you wish to nominate for the 2021 City of Whittier Volunteer of the Year.

6. Nominee Name *

Glen McClure

7. Contact Phone Number *

562-652-7125

8. Contact Email Address *

N/A

9. Name of agency Nominee supported in 2021 *

City of Whittier

10. Nominee Job Title (If applicable) *

City of Whittier Resident/Retiree

11. Total number of hours served as a volunteer for this Agency in 2021 *

999 hours

12. Frequency of Service in 2021 *

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

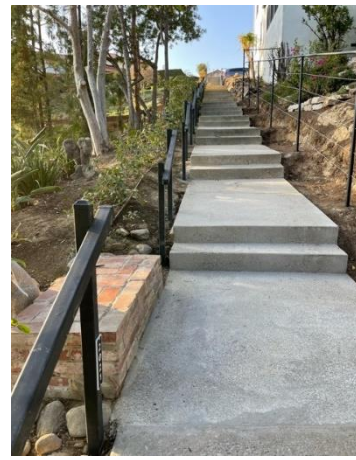
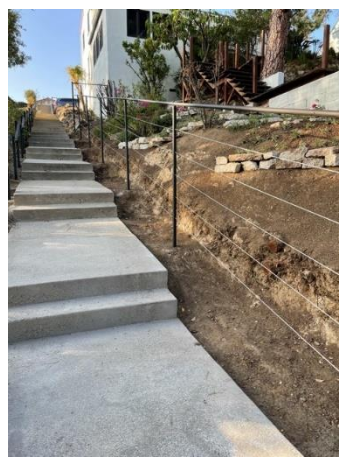
14. Please describe the reasons for nominating this individual *

Mr. Glen McClure, a Whittierite and retiree, longed to make a safer stairway behind his home for his neighbors and friends and to create a more appealing look to the 100-year-old City staircase / walkway which was built as part of the historical College Hills residential neighborhood in the early 1920's.

Mr. McClure met with City Staff in August of 2021 to gain approval to repair various sections of the stairs that were cracked and uplifted. One section of stairs that was replaced measured 12 feet long. Glen realized climbing the stairs can be tiring, so he constructed a steel hand railing along his property line adjacent to the stairs as an extra support for residents to hold if needed.

These improvements along with some landscaping and erosion control measures were all done by retired Mr. Glen McClure at his own expense. He invested \$2,000+ of his own finances and hundreds of hours of labor to complete this project. He also set up a GoFundMe account and was able to raise \$200.

Now the stairs act as a safe short cut for residents to walk down the hill to Whittier College and into the Uptown area. Some residents also find it to be a great way to exercise. During the pandemic when exercise facilities were closed this secure alternate route made it enjoyable and welcoming. The completed railing has been met with praise by all who use and visit the stairs.



15.

If more information about the nominee or the agency please attach a PDF.

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Files submitted:

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

Files submitted:

Thank you for completing this application. The Social Services Commission will review all applications shortly. If you have any comments or questions, contact our office at (562) 567-9400



Agenda Report

Social Services Commission

Date: April 5, 2022

To: Social Services Commission

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

Subject: 2022 Whittier Scholarship Program

RECOMMENDATION

Award scholarships for the 2022 Whittier Scholarship Program.

BACKGROUND

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 the City and the Social Services Commission awards 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.

DISCUSSION

The 2022 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 educate 86,000 residents on how to properly recycle, as well as compost their food waste. Essay should discuss ways to encourage residents to participate in the proposed programs. The essay contest is open to college-bound graduating high school seniors who are residents of the City of Whittier.

Seven eligible essays were received: four essays from the Athens Services area and three from the Republic Services area. Essays will be evaluated based upon creativity, demonstrated passion for the environment, and a vision for the future. Submissions will also be judged based upon Modern Language Association (MLA) writing standards and use of sources and correct citations. Decisions made by the judges are final.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

Agenda Item No. 5.D.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 3: Maintain & Enhance Quality of Life

ATTACHMENT

A. Entries for the 2022 Whittier Scholarship Program

Athens Services

Entries:

Athens #1

Athens #2

Athens #3

Athens #4

Whittier Must Go Green

“EPA estimates that more food reaches landfills than any other material in our municipal solid waste, making up over 24 percent of MSW sent to landfills,” (“2018 Wasted...”). A substantial amount of food is thrown into the trash where it contributes to an amassing problem in today's society: greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gasses cause rising temperatures in the environment as seen in Whittier with heat waves and 80 degree weather in the winter. It is now time to tackle and stuff the problem with community contribution. Through methods such as city-wide education on recycling and compost curbside pick-up, Whittier can uplift its citizens’ morale for the upcoming future of the neighborhood.

One idea is to host an annual event in Uptown to commemorate National Recycling Day in mid November. This is an opportunity to teach about recycling and other eco-friendly options all while supporting local vendors. The event can be advertised through social media and flyers throughout Uptown and in local schools. On social media, there are polls available in which people can vote on a vendor they may want, causing attraction to the event. Monitoring the social media, profit, and attendance number will prove the success of the celebration. The Director of Sustainability can highlight the importance of recycling and its impacts on the city through a

speech. A simple way to educate can be by passing out pamphlets with instructions on recycling and composting to simplify the process. Composting eventually results in soil, hence the people can use the compost to grow their own plants and will have the option to buy seeds from vendors. Other booths can sell eco-friendly bags or even provide food to entice more customers. This event's goal is not only to help the environment but to also help comfort citizens by providing hope for the future as Whittier progresses toward being green.

Another plan is that during an upcoming election, the community can vote on whether or not they want a composting service. The success of the idea would be proved if the service were passed. Many major cities like San Francisco and Portland provide a composting option along with their trash service. If it is passed, then people can sign up through a sheet sent in the mail and will receive new bins with instructions on what can and cannot be composted. The goal would be to have a majority of the city participate in the composting service. According to Barrett, "All of Portland's compost is taken to industrial composting facilities across Oregon which is then processed back into nutrient rich soil". Therefore, Whittier could do the same as Oregon and could promote the use of the compost soil in city plants, parks, and more. This would not only help the environment but it would help our city's natural beauty. In conclusion, taking small steps like these can majorly contribute to the environment's health as the years progress and would overall raise morale so, Whittier must change and go green.

Works Cited

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<https://www.epa.gov/land-research/food-waste-research>. Accessed 10 Mar., 2022.

Whittier Scholarship Essay

As I sat in the passenger seat alongside my dad, the charcoal minivan stopped at the newest residential development in Whittier -- the site of a former children's correctional facility. As a small child, I was jokingly told that if I misbehaved, I would be sent to the children's prison. With the newly instituted housing replacing that option, and with the historic brick dormitories and office buildings now serving as a Grove community center and a future home for local shops, I was enraptured by this new development - the sidewalks, the layout, the trees. Everything. The multitudinous detours, as my dad drove us through the streets, turned into frequent talks about the city layout. Bicycling excursions on a former railroad track -- now a community trail which incorporates a historic railroad bridge -- also sparked my interest in improving the livability of our city. All my life I've aspired to further improve my city, Whittier, and as the newly elected Director of Sustainability for the City of Whittier, I plan to do just that.

One issue I aim to address as the new Director of Sustainability is the trash epidemic and the need to properly recycle. As I walk the Turnbull Canyon Trails just behind my house, I notice an abundance of trash. My goal is to clean up these trails and educate the people of Whittier on how to recycle properly. I will host weekly trail cleanups, in which a large group will hike, pick up trash, and subsequently ensure that the bottles end up at a recycling center and the trash is disposed of properly. I will encourage residents to participate in this clean-up through social media, word of mouth, and by passing out flyers to the doors of the Whittier citizens. Everyone will want to help make Whittier a better place. As these clean-ups become more well established,

the ideas and hikes to clean up the trails will translate to the streets of Whittier, as this group eventually cleans up the Greenway Trail and various parks.

Not only will we pick up trash, but we will harvest the growth of new plants. This effort will be achieved by composting our food. Watermelon rinds, eggshells, and onion tops don't belong in the trash can. Our food waste will be placed into communal compost bins, which will be placed sporadically throughout the city- by city hall, each park, in front of the Whittier Public Library, and in front of each school. These compost bins will help produce rich solids and educate the masses on preserving food waste. The rich soil that is formed will then be used by volunteers and student groups along the Greenway Trail, parks, and the Turnbull Canyon to plant an array of flowers and beautiful plants. Each flower represents the trash that was picked up, the compost that was generated, and the progress made in the charming city of Whittier.

Local Composting and Recycling Made Easy

“Sustainability is the avoidance of depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance”(Oxford). Sustainability has always been a top priority for Whittier. With 86,000 residents it seems like something that is out of reach. It is clear to see that the problem does not reside within the Whittier locals but the huge corporations that use harmful single use plastics for packaging. As a resident it can be helpful to take action and recycle in order to reduce waste. In order to promote proper recycling and composting of food waste, the best method is to involve people of all age groups starting with very young children to senior residents.

I propose that four separate outreach programs are created, each Outreach program will target a certain age group of Whittier residents. The first program would be tasked with educating the young families in Whittier with elementary age children, this average program will teach these families the basics of recycling and composting and how it can be beneficial in their own household. The second program would be tasked with the adolescents in the community that are high school aged, this program would educate these teenagers not only on the basics of recycling but also educate them on how to lobby local and state governments for their opinions on sustainability laws that affect them. The

third program would target adult aged Whittier residents; this program would educate them on the basics of recycling and how to maintain a more environmentally friendly household all around. The last program would focus on Whittier seniors, this outreach program would educate these residents on the basics of recycling and composting and importance of sustainability I and how it affects future generations whittier residents.

These programs could hold focus groups of their individual target audiences and get their opinions of the Whittier locals on what would best attract each group to participate in this proposed plan. Events could also be held two promote sustainability in the city as well as creating fun opportunities for Whittier locals to participate in. Each program would be assigned a program leader that would need to be hired through the city, when engaging with local residents the program leaders can use the assistance of our volunteers. These events and focus groups could be promoted on social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok. The Whittier trash companies could send recycling boxes to each household in the Whittier area to help the Whittier residents get started on their recycling journeys. These groups can also make visits to Whittier schools and get the attention of school aged children and adolescents there.

The proposed budget would include funding for the four program leaders, incentives for local participation, events in the community, social media promotion, and for recycling boxes sent to Whittier homes. The proposed schedule would be to get started and launch around August of 2022 and continue these programs throughout the year. Results can be measured as a percentage of increased visits to Whittier recycling

centers after the course of one year. If results show that these programs have been effective then we will continue them, if they show to not be effective, then we can reassess at the end of the year. Overall this is the best solution to promote sustainability among Whittier residents.

Works Cited

“The Oxford English Dictionary.” *Oxford Languages*, 10 March 2022,

<https://languages.oup.com/research/oxford-english-dictionary/>. 10 March 2022.

Composting and Recycling Envoy Program

Whittier's CARE program initiative will begin to reinvigorate our current recycling system, introducing residents to composting, all while implementing a brand new community service program centered around High School Students. Why should we care? "About 6%-8% of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced if we stop wasting food." This is "equivalent of 32.6 million cars' worth of greenhouse gas emissions."

Implementation will need to be top down, involving city management and environmentally minded residents who will make up a committee of stakeholders. We will also hire a site manager to lead the planning and oversee the overall composting program.

Buy-in for residents must begin with the city ensuring all facilities have recycling offices for food waste on site. Every building will have clearly labeled bin sorters and location maps

throughout. How the City of Whittier is responding to recycling and composting will be advertised in buildings, community information boards, and city government tv programming.

We will inform residents of any updates to our recycling program while introducing residential composting collection. Initial emphasis will be placed on restaurants and schools because of their large food waste footprint.

Now how do High School students fit into the picture? High school students around Whittier Union High School District will be working in order to earn their big E and become an official Composting and Recycling Envoy by earning community service hours working throughout the city. The CARE program also entails the opening of various community greenhouses in parks throughout the city. Here residents are taught the skills necessary to compost their food waste by Envoy students in training. These students will also tend to the gardens and hold special events throughout the year. After the students hit 100 hours of community service they will be given a badge signifying their commitment to the environment. Within the schools themselves students will be taught about effective composting methods and the impact of their environmental footprints.

Envoys who have completed 100 hours will move onto bigger jobs such as assisting publicity campaigns and advertising for the city. They will use city social media accounts to post regular reminders and tips for residents. To reach the younger generation, an Envoy instagram account will also be opened to target high school and aspiring middle school students who want to join the program or participate in the activities thrown by Envoys throughout the year. We will begin to market the program through a kickoff fair for residents, but the city will hold multiple

events to explain the program where we can hand out kitchen bins, play composting games, and recruit future envoys. The Public Works website will be updated to include educational material in multiple languages.

To lessen program fatigue we will follow up to improve the program over time. Progress monitoring will include:

- Post-launch meetings/follow-up surveys for stakeholders
- Monthly/Yearly reports on composting collection
- Residential and business service rate incentives for waste reduction
- Reduce overall waste to landfills by 80% in 25 years

(500 Words)

Works Cited

“Fight Climate Change by Preventing Food Waste.” *WWF*, World Wildlife Fund,

www.worldwildlife.org/stories/fight-climate-change-by-preventing-food-waste#:~:

Republic Services

Entries:

Republic #1
Republic #2
Republic #3

Composting and Recycling: Time to Go Cleaner and Greener

Since its origin in the 1970's, the "Triple R" slogan of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" has served as foundation for environmental sustainability (Gordon). However, while 94 percent of Americans support recycling, the national recycling rate is a meager 34.7 percent ("It's "America Recycles Day"). With a slightly higher recycling rate, California is far from achieving its waste reduction goals (Truelove). Local municipalities are key in executing waste reduction strategies and the City of Whittier has made tangible strides through its waste reduction programs ("City Recycling Program"). The renewed focus on composting offers benefits for waste and methane gas reduction while protecting against topsoil erosion ("Innovative Uses of Compost Erosion Control"). Eighty-six thousand Whittier residents make up a diverse group of people and engaging them will require connection to the shared value of sustainability. Education, clear goals and incentives are three key components to activate local composting and recycling plans.

Education is key to proper recycling. Contamination in recycling is an enormous challenge and results in ineffective recycling and reduced quality product (Rachelson). It is important to teach residents about proper recycling and contamination which hinders outcomes. An easy way to educate the public would be to use long-lasting bin stickers clearly showcasing accepted and excluded products as well as reminders for de-contamination. As with education for proper recycling, combating the

misconceptions of composting as being smelly, messy and space-consuming is critical (Beck). A fun pamphlet with a free container could introduce Whittier locals to the idea of composting. Any education effort needs to clearly explain why the actions are important. Along with education, the City of Whittier should set realistic goals as to recycling and composting. A measurable goal for recycling could be reduced contamination rate and decrease in added landfill waste. A measurable goal for composting could be Whittier locals' participation in composting and increase in production of organic compost. Recognition, competition, and monetary incentives play a large role in changing behavior. The City of Whittier should compete in recycling and composting efforts with a sister town to foster competitive spirit. Account credits for those who properly recycle and compost should be a big factor in changing behavior.

In summary, more than 50 years of "Triple R" helped make recycling a value that unites Americans, and therefore, Californians, and Whittier locals. There is much at stake for municipalities especially in lieu of changes in the global recycling market and landfill space (Smith). There is much more to be done in the area of recycling and composting. Communities want to be a part of environmental sustainability but need to understand how they fit in and what specific actions they need to take. Simple and easy to understand approaches are key to changing behavior. Without clarity, people will not be able to connect to the goal and make simple changes in their daily lives to achieve that goal. Education, realistic goals and incentives play a critical role in engaging with residents to exceed recycling and composting objectives of our Whittier Community.

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Smith, Carl. "After China's Recyclable Ban, Municipalities Shift Gears." Governing, August 27, 2021, www.governing.com/now/after-chinas-recyclable-ban-municipalities-shift-gears.

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Recycling and Composting: Whittier Tackles it Head-On

As the world tackles environmental damage, recycling and composting are frequently used to combat damage on federal, state, and local levels. Such methods are especially important in local areas, such as the community of Whittier, so new initiatives should be undertaken in local projects. At the beginning of such a project, Whittier should undergo a “waste characterization study to understand the waste produced” in the local area. This is necessary because the city will learn how much waste is being disposed of and discover its priorities, which makes it clearer on what to market to residents (C40 Knowledge Hub).

In order to properly implement the recycling and composting measures that Whittier wants to take, marketing should be done around the city to ensure that everybody is aware of the new city goals. This would include having banners over large intersections, bus stops with posters, and door-to-door campaigning. Personal conversations with city personnel about recycling will get people more engaged and educated. In these visits, posters should be handed out so that they may be hung over waste bins, clearly outlining which materials belong where, making the task seem less daunting and more likely to be repeated in homes. Outside of the home, the city should ensure residents utilize all community resources regarding recycling and composting as much as possible. These resources would include, but are not limited to, three-bin compost systems, which can “handle significant quantities of materials,” and extra trash cans

specifically designed for food waste (“Food Waste Composting...”). Furthermore, Whittier officials should ensure that “drop-off centres and bins are clearly marked” and that “instructions are...visual,” so citizens come back with a positive recycling experience (C40 Knowledge Hub). For some individuals, however, a further incentive is needed because they see no personal economic gain (Delmas). This is why the infographics should highlight that individuals can seek out stations in which they can recycle by the pound to earn money. Another way to increase success rates is by educating people young, so schools should implement vermicomposting, which “uses worms to consume the food waste”, so this creates a fun activity for kids to observe, and gives them a desire to give back to the environment (“Food Waste Composting...”). Whittier can also “offer direct assistance to...businesses or institutional facilities to support them in increasing their participation in recycling schemes” (C40 Knowledge Hub). With all of these marketing and implementation plans, the city can look forward to seeing the results of its efforts.

As new implementation methods are being conducted, officials should “hold monthly Green Team meetings to discuss blockers” in city aims, and “obtain feedback” on marketing processes (C40 Knowledge Hub). Furthermore, waste audits should be conducted so that the city can compare them to original reports and highlight how much, or how little, goals have been met (“Assessing, Measuring, and...”). In these ways, Whittier can become a more united, educated, and proactive city regarding recycling and composting.

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Dear Residents of Whittier:

Hello! My name is Lisa, the new Director of Sustainability for the City of Whittier, and would like to take some time to discuss with you the plans I have for the coming years. My biggest goal is to make Whittier a city that contributes to recycling and taking social responsibility. According to the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, the average U.S. household waste 31.9% of its food, which is estimated to cost \$1,866 per household (Bandoim). The obvious solution is to reduce food waste, which I highly encourage. It would help to simply use a shopping list when going to a grocery store, as it could prevent unnecessary products from going into the basket. Perhaps when serving food, you could fill them up in a smaller bowl, creating the illusion that you are eating more than you are. A creative approach to reducing food waste is by using leftovers. I realize this doesn't sound too appealing, but you could use vegetable scraps such as stalks and peels to produce soup or sauce. I assure you that these simple steps you can take will help our planet. In addition, I do have plans I want to initiate on my end. In 2002, San Francisco committed to diverting at least 75% of all waste generated in their city. Following that, they introduced legislation requiring the "recycling and composting of food and yard wastes, and banned items like Styrofoam and plastic grocery bags" (C40 Knowledge Hub). The city has been the least wasteful major city in the United States, and I hope to be able to take on their example.

First, we can implement Door-to-door collection schemes as well as Drop-off schemes. As the latter is cheaper, it seems to be the better option for areas with apartment complexes as there is a high housing density (C40 Knowledge Hub). In addition, we can minimize and encourage less production of landfills by providing 16-gallon landfill bins instead of the 64-gallon bins we use. It would also be wise to provide schools with bins for recycling. As we know, children are the future. They also make up a significant portion of our community. Having bins for recycling will instill and give students the opportunity to practice the good habit of recycling. Thank you so much for your time, and let's hope to build a better future together.

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