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**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE # 3.3**

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**GOAL #3: HUMAN CAPITAL**

*Assist every person to reach their true potential*

INITIATIVE 3.3: ANALYZE THE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF YOUTH PROGRAMS AND IDENTIFY A ROLE FOR CITY GOVERNMENT

**Fiscal Year 2009 Quarterly Updates:**

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009)**

This last quarter offered a successful summer filled with numerous programs for youth and teens to include: the Summer Heatwave Basketball League serving 230 youth; six Summer Day Camp sites serving over 400 youth; the Girls to Young Ladies (G2YL) Teen program serving 70 girls; two Operation Respect Yourself Pool Parties, one at the beginning of the summer at NE Pool in conjunction with the Mike Peterson Football Camp and one at the end of the summer at Westside Pool. The end of summer pool party took on a broader scope as a Back to school Extravaganza and included free giveaways to parents and youth to get ready for school. The MLK Center remained open all summer for Open Gym from 12 Noon to 5 PM daily and was well utilized by all age groups. In addition, the Phoenix Summer Program was funded again by the City through the Family Christian Association at the joint GPD/PRCA Annex. Youth baseball, softball, swim lessons, Aquatic Camps and programs, Jr. Golf programs and more kept youth and teens active and involved during the summer months. School Resource Officers were heavily engaged in the Heatwave Basketball League and the G2YL program. The Reickert House and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) Department teamed up to train Reickert House youth in lawn maintenance skills in an effort to provide future job skills and self maintain the grounds of the Reickert House. And a PRCA intern completed a recreational skills interest survey of Reickert House youth to assist with a developing a structured and more formal recreation program for the youth. Keeping youth and teens engaged in positive activity while reducing juvenile crime was a top priority for GPD and PRCA. This next quarter youth advocate partners will reconvene to update the Youth Resources Guide, identify the program gaps and make recommendations to the City Commission on the role of city government in providing youth programs. The GPD/Recreation and Cultural Affairs Departments served 240 youth and teens in the Summer Heat Wave Basketball Program.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (April 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009)**

A community engagement meeting occurred April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Eastside Recreation Center with stakeholders focused on developing a mentoring program during after-school hours using the NE Community Center, a location in the SW 20<sup>th</sup> Ave area and in zip code 32609, site to be determined. Focus this quarter has been on program development and engaging as many youth as possible in positive activities during the summer. The Heatwave Summer Program began June 2<sup>nd</sup>. All the programs are currently full. Girls to Young Ladies (G2YL) Teen workshops have 70 girls, Summer Camps scholarships were 150, and Summer Basketball League 240 girls and boys. Actually received over 300 registrations for the basketball program, but the capacity is the 240 amount. Operation Respect Yourself held an End of School Year Pool Party at the NE Pool in conjunction with the Mike Peterson Football Camp at Citizens Field and MLK Center serving over 400 youth on June 27<sup>th</sup>. An End of Summer Pool Party is scheduled for August 15 at Westside Pool. The MLK Center has remained open all summer for Open Gym from 12 Noon to 5 PM daily and has been well utilized by all age groups.

Please make all updates in **BLUE!**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Received by CCOM on 5/21/2009 Consent Agenda)**

On January 15th, Cpt. Tony Jones and the chair of the Summer Heatwave Committee, Rhonda Stroman, presented the final results of the 2008 Summer Heatwave program and received approval from the City Commission for: 150 summer camp scholarships per week for six weeks; \$9,000 in-kind services for GPD overtime to support Operation Respect Yourself Summer Events; and postponed a request for \$9,000 from the Contingency Fund for RTS passes for Heatwave youth

The first Stakeholders Team met on January 22nd to discuss establishing a Youth Commission. Gretchen Howard with the State Attorney's Office presented an update on Juvenile Delinquency in Alachua County and focused specifically on factors that prevent delinquency. The following ideas were significant:

- Mentor youth to become basketball officials and/or provide assistance with getting jobs

- An explanation of the GAP Analysis Gretchen Howard performed.

- An update on the Alachua County Juvenile Prevention Report to determine how we can work together

- Approach the Rotary Clubs for grant assistance and/or identify others who are willing to seek funding for youth programs.

On March 4th, a Town Hall meeting on Juvenile Crime was held in conjunction with the Black on Black Crime Task Force and the Reichert House, with over 200 people present. Staff from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officers attended as well, to discuss disproportionate minority contact in the criminal justice system.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report (Received by CCOM on 2/5/2009 Consent Agenda)**

This quarter, Gretchen Howard with the State Attorney's Office, presented information on Delinquency Prevention to the City Commission. The presentation occurred December 4<sup>th</sup> and led to excellent discussion and direction from the Commission and interested members of the community.

In addition, the co-champions of this initiative met with Commissioner Schwerin Henry and the City Manager to discuss next steps and support needed for the continued implementation of this initiative. Commissioner Henry will assist with recruiting members from the faith community to serve on the Stakeholders Team. The first Stakeholders Team Meeting will be on January 22 to tackle issues related to this initiative.

The Heat-Wave Committee presented a report on summer activities to the County Commission on December 9<sup>th</sup> which resulted in a commitment of \$60,000 for the 2009 Heat-Wave program. With Captain Jones as the lead, the Heat-Wave Committee will make a similar present to the City Commission on January 15th. The presentation will report on the results of the summer program activity and plans for next summer.