

Executive Summary

To: Patti McLauchlin, City Manager

From: Roger McVeigh, Vice Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

CC: Tiffany Pellicier, Chair Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

Re: Advisory Board Recommendation, FY2022 Youth League Funding

Date: January 25, 2022

Action:

Respectfully request the City Commission approve an increase in funding for Youth Leagues for FY2022 of \$53,000, from \$72,000 to \$125,000.

Background:

Youth leagues are very important to the City of Key West. City of Key West financial support of these leagues provides enriching and constructive extra-curricular activities for our youth after school, on weekends, promotes healthy lifestyles, provides opportunities for adult volunteers to mentor youth, and enhances the development of important skills like sportsmanship, teamwork, respect for others, integrity, discipline, and the pursuit of excellence at the individual and team level.

The review of Youth League funding by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, requested by City of Key West Finance Director, Mark Finegan, was to provide a fair, transparent process for the City Commission to consider in determining the level of City taxpayer funded support.

Funding for the six Youth Leagues has generally been approved by the City in the aggregate amount of approximately \$72,000. Because of Covid 19, these youth leagues were not funded in FY2020 and 2021. Funding for FY2019 was as follows:

KW Little Conch Baseball	\$19,500
Key West Youth Football League	\$18,000
Southernmost Hockey Club	\$7,000
KW Youth LaCrosse League	\$7,000
AYSO Region 660	\$10,000
Key West Girls Softball League	\$10,000

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board spent its May Meeting listening to presentations from representatives of each of the six Youth Leagues and has reviewed their detailed funding requests. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was unable to achieve a quorum for the June, July, and August

meetings and, as a result, the Advisory Board was unable to formally vote on this recommendation before the final September FY2022 Budget meetings in September 2021.

Factors the Advisory Board considered in recommending the modest increase in Youth League funding included number of participants in each league, potential for growth in participant numbers, gender and diversity of the participants, financial information and resources available to each league, with an emphasis on inclusion of kids of families that are resource limited through extending fee waivers and scholarships. We also considered specific needs and circumstances like the recent change in safety equipment requirements applicable to KW Youth LaCrosse League.

For the reasons described above, we recommend that the City approve Youth League funding of \$125,000 for the fiscal year 2022 budget in the following amounts:

KW Little Conch Baseball	\$25,000
Key West Youth Football League	\$25,000
Southernmost Hockey Club	\$15,000
KW Youth LaCrosse League	\$20,000
AYSO Region 660	\$20,000
Key West Girls Softball League	\$20,000
Total Proposed Youth League Funding	\$125,000

This would result in an increase in funding from \$72,000 in FY 2019 to \$125,000 for FY2022, a modest \$53,000 increase.

Financial Impact:

The City will need to approve a budget amendment of \$53,000 or alternatively, these funds would need to be allocated from the City Manager's annual discretionary budget. Positive budget variances in revenues (sales taxes and parking) in the last several months of FY2021 and the first three months of FY2022 as well as unspent funds expected in the FY2022 budget (for example, unfilled positions) will substantially offset this modest \$53,000 increase in funding for this very important community activity.

Recommendation:

Approve an increase in funding for Youth Leagues for FY2022 of \$53,000, from \$72,000 to \$125,000