



**SAN RAFAEL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

**Department: Police**

**Prepared by: Roy Leon, Lieutenant**

**City Manager Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOPIC: Camp Chance 2020 – “Bringing Cops and Kids Together”**

**SUBJECT:** Informational Report regarding Camp Chance 2020

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the City Council accept the informational report.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1999, the San Rafael Police Department created a one-week summer camp, called “Camp Chance,” for at-risk and underserved youth ages 11 through 13 living in our community. Over 1,223 youth from Marin and Sonoma Counties have benefited from this enriching camping program since its inception in 1999.

**ANALYSIS:**

At Camp Chance, children participate in traditional camping activities such as swimming, hiking, and nature studies. In addition, they are given the opportunity to create and foster rapport with peace officers in a personal and relaxed setting. This rapport has historically continued to flourish when the children return to their home.

In 2004, the Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) joined the San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) in presenting the program and the number of campers has grown substantially. We now have Marin County Sheriff deputies, Novato police officers, and Marin County probation officers that all join with San Rafael police officers to participate with the kids in all the activities throughout the week. This informal and personal contact with peace officers has proven to be a big win-win for the kids, police and community. When children feel more connected with their community and build a good relationship with their police officers, they are less likely to be involved in destructive behavior and criminal activity. In 2008, SRPD and MCSO partnered with the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) and selected Walker Creek Ranch, an MCOE facility, to host Camp Chance. We are returning to this venue which allows us to offer children a superior environment and camping experience for a lower cost. Camp Chance 2020 will be held July 6 - 10, 2020 and a minimum of 75 youth will attend at the cost of \$700 per child. Since 2004, Camp Chance has been funded through donations of time and money; all donated money is dedicated directly to cover the cost of sending children to camp.

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**FOR CITY CLERK ONLY**

**Council Meeting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Disposition:** \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Chance creates an opportunity for community partnership between at-risk youth and law enforcement and does not place a financial burden on the City of San Rafael. Moreover, it reduces juvenile crime by offering these youth a structured and challenging, but enjoyable, overnight summer camp experience that builds rapport and trust with law enforcement.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

Middle schools throughout Marin County nominate children and we announce the program on our Camp Chance Facebook page, SRPD Instagram page, SRPD Facebook page, and our Camp Chance website. We now enjoy brand recognition and receive calls directly from parents asking that their children be considered for Camp Chance. We strive to keep older children who have aged out from the program involved by offering counselor-in-training (CIT) volunteer positions for kids 15-17 years old and hiring camp counselors from alumni over the age of 18.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an informational report which has no direct fiscal impact on the City.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Accept the informational report as presented.
2. Do not accept the informational report.
3. Direct staff to return with more information.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff recommends the City Council accept the informational report.