

Council Meeting of

March 25, 2008

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Approve a Rental Request from the L.A. Watts Summer Games to host a High School Soccer Tournament at Columbia Park in June 2008.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council approve a rental request from the L.A. Watts Summer Games to host a High School Soccer Tournament at Columbia Park in June 2008.

**Funding**

Net revenue to the City of \$3,900.

**BACKGROUND**

On September 21, 2007, the Community Services Department received a proposal from Mr. Aldo Perez, Regional Director for the L.A. Summer Watts Games, requesting the rental of Columbia Park for their 2008 High School Soccer Tournament (Attachment A).

This tournament was last held in 2006 at the Home Depot Center. Last year's event was cancelled due to the opening of David Beckman's Academy, which forced the L.A. Watts Summer Games to find an alternate location. Mr. Perez is requesting permission to bring this event to Columbia Park.

This request was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission with copies of the agenda sent to local Homeowners Associations. The Commission approved the request agreeing that the event would not negatively impact the neighboring residents.

**ANALYSIS**

The L.A. Summer Watts Games was originated after the 1965 Watts' riots, with the inaugural games played in 1968. This year will be their 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Tournament and games will be played June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. each day. This event will host approximately 2,400 high school athletes throughout the region and will consist of 140 teams.

The rental fees for the use of Columbia Park for four (4) days would be as follows:

▪ 2 Park Services Staff at \$465.00 each day	\$1,860.00
▪ 2 Park Rangers at \$250.00 each day	\$1,000.00
▪ Field Rental at \$15 per hour (5 fields)	<u>\$3,900.00</u>
	Total: \$6,760.00

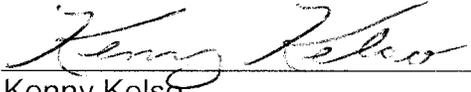
The L.A. Watts Summer Games Organization will also be required to provide 10 portable toilets for this tournament.

The Community Services Department and the local soccer organizations are honored to support this tournament as it is a very prestigious event for the South Bay Community and will bring a great deal of notoriety to the City of Torrance. Mr. Perez has already gained support from both the AYSO North Region 16 and the Adult Ladies Soccer Organizations to assist with this tournament and provide the soccer goals and nets.

The Community Services Director and the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend that City Council approve the rental request from the L.A. Watts Summer Games to host a high school soccer tournament at Columbia Park.

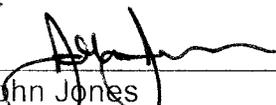
Respectfully submitted,

JOHN JONES  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By   
Kenny Kelso

Senior Recreation Supervisor

CONCUR:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Jones  
Community Services Director

  
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Jonna Smoot, Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation Commission

NOTED:

  
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LeROY J. JACKSON  
City Manager

Attachments: A) Proposal from the Regional Director for L.A. Summer Watts Games

**ATTACHMENT A**

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**From:** Aldo Perez [mailto:aperez@LAJCC.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 21, 2007 12:06 PM  
**To:** Beahan, Patsy  
**Subject:** LA Watts Summer Games

Patsy:

Attached you will find the history of our games. As per our phone conversation yesterday we are interested in securing all 5 of your soccer fields at Columbia Park for June 7-8 & 14-15 from 7am -8pm each day. I understand that the cost is \$15.00 per hour per field and that we must provide a certificate of insurance. Please let me know if your fields are available and what is the process to securing them.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (213) 989-2154.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter

Aldo Perez

## L.A. WATTS SUMMER GAMES

On the evening of August 11, 1965, a 21-year old named Marquette Frye was pulled over on the grounds of drunk and reckless driving. He was pulled over on the corner of 116th Street and Avalon Boulevard in South Central Los Angeles, just blocks from his home. Marquette was arrested on the spot and the police called for a tow truck to impound his car. Marquette's brother, Ronald, was also in the car and argued with the police to let him just drive his car home because he (Ronald) was sober. The police refused, and Ronald ran home to get his mother. Since this was Marquette's neighborhood, a crowd had formed around the scene by this time. His brother and mother returned to the scene and an argument between them and the police ensued. The officers phoned in for backup two times during the argument, and all three Fryes ended up handcuffed arrested.

The crowd had quickly grown into an angry mob of 200-300 spectators, one of whom spat at the police. This action resulted in two more arrests of crowd members, which only angered the mob further. Forty minutes and 6 patrol cars later, the police left the scene, followed by an angry, stone-throwing crowd. Several hours later, that same mob started mini riots around the city, and 29 were arrested immediately. The following day, a city council meeting with both White and Black citizens was held to cool the tensions and plead for non-violent actions. This meeting had little effect on the angered, however, as within several hours the city was on fire.

The Watts Riots are significant for a number of reasons, primarily because they mark the first major racial rebellion in the 1960's, a time when social progress was possible but racial relations were still in horrible conditions. Issues of civil rights and discrimination were finally being addressed, but the oppressed groups still had no voice. This uprising served as their voice - their official statement of anger, frustration, mistreatment, and demand for change. By calling such massive attention to the problems infesting the city and the nation, these riots presented the larger society with a glimpse of racial tensions and awareness for the rest of the century.

In response to the riots, William E. Sims and members of the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce saw a need to create an environment where people of different backgrounds could come together in the spirit of goodwill. After many obstacles and many miracles, the inaugural L.A. Watts Summer Games were held in 1968 at Locke High School. Originally called the Watts Summer Olympics, the Games were modeled

after the Olympic Games. The L.A. Watts Summer Games were conceived in the belief that through better understanding and communication with each other, the youth of Los Angeles could hold the key to a society less burdened with racial tension.

The success of the first Games - which involved 150 athletes competing in three events - persuaded all who were involved that the concept was sound. The Games provided a much-needed opportunity for young people of various ethnic, economic and geographic backgrounds to interact with one another in the positive context of sports.

In 1969, the number of athletes increased to 500. In 1970, the name was changed to the Watts Summer Games. During the years, the number of athletes grew to 12,000 and new sports were added to the competition, totaling 18 events for 2002. To increase the quality of the tournament, most sports were changed to double elimination formats in 2000. The Games

have continued to draw from farther and farther away, with participants from San Francisco to San Diego. More than 185,000 young people have competed to date.

In 1990, the name "L.A. Watts Summer Games" was selected to reflect the expansion of the Games to encompass the entire community. Retaining "Watts" was important because of the event's roots and history.

To promote positive achievement and interaction among young people in areas other than athletics, the Games established a scholarship program for graduating high school seniors and community college students who have shown dedication to serving the community.

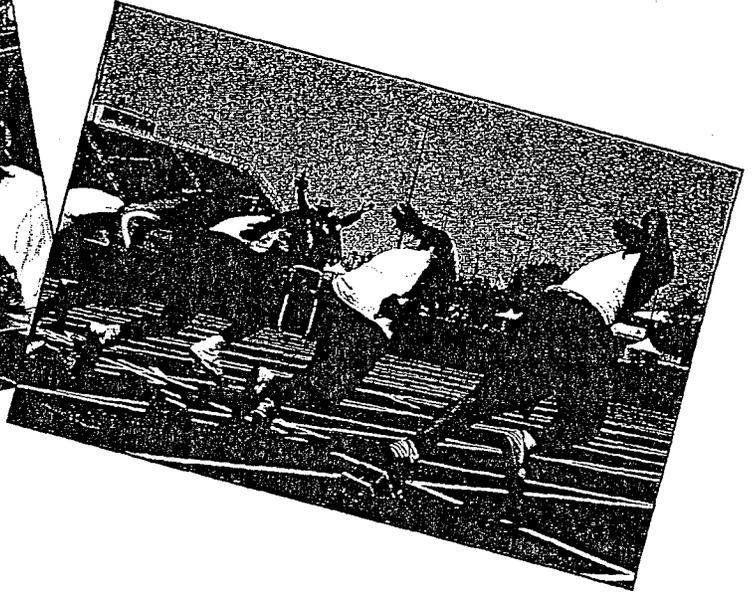
The LAJCC seeks to promote higher education and inspire qualities of positivity, perseverance, and altruism in the hearts and minds of the younger students participating in the Games. The success of the scholarship component has enabled it to become its own program, independent of the Games.

It is the philosophy of the Games that all of the young men and women who compete are winners in their own right, because they do their best, and come together from different backgrounds to participate in the spirit of fair play.

As we celebrate 40 years of achievement, we are not only renewing our commitment - we stand prepared to strengthen it.

***The success of the first Games - which involved 150 athletes competing in three events - persuaded all who were involved that the concept was sound.***

# HISTORY AND ALUMNI



**Jeanette Bolden - Track & Field**  
Centennial High School

**Elden Campbell - NBA**  
Inglewood High School

**Cynthia Cooper - WNBA**  
Locke High School

**Michael Cooper - NBA**  
Pasadena High School

**Eric Davis - MLB**  
Dorsey High School

**Mike Davis - NFL**  
Locke High School

**Tyus Edney - NBA**  
Long Beach Poly High School

**John Elway - NFL**  
Granada Hills High School

**Vince Ferragamo - NFL**  
Banning High School

**Marlon Garnett - NBA**  
Hamilton High School

**David Greenwood - NBA**  
Verbum Dei High School

**Tony Gwynn - MLB**  
LB Poly High School

**Pat Haden - NBA**  
Bishop Amat High School

**Roy Hamilton - NBA**  
Verbum Dei High School

**Kevin Hartman - MLS**  
Palos Verdes High School

**Mike Haynes - NFL**  
John Marshall High School

**Valerie Brisco Hooks - Track & Field**  
Locke High School

**Artis Houston - NFL**  
Verbum Dei High School

**Yul "Pepper" Jenkins - NFL**  
Verbum Dei High School

**Dennis Johnson - NBA**  
Narbonne High School

**Marques Johnson - NBA**  
Crenshaw High School

**Florence Griffith Joyner - Track & Field**  
L.A. Jordan High School

**Bill Lambier - NBA**  
Palos Verdes High School

**Lisa Leslie - NBA**  
Morningside High School

**Erin Martin - WUSA**  
Temple City High School

**Vernon Maxwell - NFL**  
Verbum Dei High School

**Freeman McNeil - NFL**  
Banning (Wilmington)

**Ann Meyers - NBA**  
Sonora High School

**Andre Miller - NBA**  
Verbum Dei High School

**Charles Mincy - NFL**  
Dorsey High School

**Tracy Murray - NBA**  
Glendora High School

**Hardy Nickerson - NFL**  
Verbum Dei High School

**Lorenzo Romar - NBA**  
Pious X High School

**Todd Saldana - MLS**  
South High School

**Jay Schroeder - NFL**  
Palisades High School

**Byron Scott - NBA**  
Morningside High School

**Trisha Stafford-Odom - WNBA**  
Westchester High School

**Tina Thompson - WNBA**  
Morningside High School

**Kenechi Udeze - NFL**  
Verbum Dei High School

**Lisa Willis - WNBA**  
Narbonne High School

## SPORTSMANSHIP AND FITNESS

We believe that the highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to the Games Credo and pursuing victory with honor.

The L.A. Watts Summer Games is proud to again present Sportsmanship Awards, based on character and integrity, not athletic ability. One student-athlete from each sport is selected to receive a Sportsmanship Award based on his/her embodiment of the Games Credo, which is:

**"I WILL PLAY FAIR, RESPECT MY OPPONENT, WIN WITH INTEGRITY, LOSE WITH DIGNITY, ABOVE ALL, PURSUE THE GAME WITH HONOR."**

Once again we are proud to partner with the Walt Disney Company in presenting the Sportsmanship Awards. Disney will award special medallions (see right) to each of the Sportsmanship Award winners. We are honored to have The Walt Disney Company support us in encouraging sportsmanship among the athletes of the L.A. Watts Summer Games.

*Strength within,  
pride throughout*



<p><b>LA Watts Summer Games Participant Credo</b> I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play fair</li> <li>• Respect my opponent</li> <li>• Win with integrity</li> <li>• Lose with dignity</li> <li>• Above all, pursue the game with honor</li> </ul>	<p><b>Six Pillars of Character</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustworthiness</li> <li>• Respect</li> <li>• Responsibility</li> <li>• Fairness</li> <li>• Caring</li> <li>• Citizenship</li> </ul>
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The L.A. Watts Summer Games is honored to have received official endorsement from **THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS**.

The California Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports endorses local, regional, and state events that are consistent with the Council's mission to promote physical activity and fitness for all Californians, especially children and youth. This endorsement publicly acknowledges that our event has the potential to significantly contribute to the health and well-being of California residents.



This Council is a non-profit organization established to promote the Governor's message to establish California as the nation's Fitness State with all Californians striving to meet their personal physical fitness and health goals. The Governor's Council will raise awareness and promote physical fitness and sports for all Californians through its web site, publications, programs and special events.

In 2006, the L.A. Watts Summer Games was recognized by the California Governor's Council on Physical Fitness at the Major League Lacrosse Championship Game on Sunday, August 27th at the Home Depot Center.

Michael Donovan, 2005-2007 Games Chairman, was on hand to accept the award from Governor's Council Chairman Jake Stanfield (Body by Jake). Award categories included events, principals, teachers, schools, companies, park programs and organizations. Twenty finalists were acknowledged for their contribution to helping California's children and youth lead healthy, active and fit lives. **The Games received the silver medal in the "Event of the Year" category.**

We were pleased to hear that the Executive Director of the Council, Kenny Rogers, was a participant with his high school volleyball team in the Games during the 1980s. It is rewarding to meet Games alumni and hear them share positive experiences and fond memories of the Games. This was also a great opportunity for the Games to receive well-deserved recognition in the community and build the Games' network among local organizations and companies.

# CODES OF CONDUCT

New to the L.A. Watts Summer Games is the Code of Conduct for Coaches. We believe that coaches should be held to the same standard as the athletes, and even more so as they stand as examples and teachers. We believe that sincere and good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of the LAWSG and the well-being of the student-athletes.

*"I understand that in my position as a coach, I must model high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship: integrity, honesty, loyalty, and act in accord with the following code:*

- **RESPECT** - treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of student-athletes.
- **CLASS** - be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; encourage student-athletes to give fallen opponents a hand; compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- **TAUNTING** - don't engage in or allow trash talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals of the sport.
- **RESPECT OFFICIALS** - treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
- **PROFANITY** - don't engage in or permit profanity or obscene gestures.
- **POSITIVE COACHING** - use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem and foster a love and appreciation for the sport. Refrain from

physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that is demeaning to student-athletes or others.

- **GOOD CHARACTER** - foster the development of good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling high standards of ethics and sportsmanship.
- **PRIVILEGE TO COMPETE** - assure that student-athletes understand that participation in the LAWSG is a privilege, not a right and that they are expected to represent their school, team and teammates with honor on and off the field.
- **SELF-CONTROL** - control my ego and emotions; avoid displays of anger and frustration; don't retaliate.
- **PROTECT ATHLETES** - put the well-being of student-athletes above other considerations and take appropriate steps to protect them from inappropriate conduct.
- **IMPROPER GAMESMANSHIP** - promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship; don't cheat. Resist temptations to gain competitive advantage through strategies or techniques (such as devious rule violations, alteration of equipment or the field of play or tactics designed primarily to induce injury or fear of injury) that violate the rules, disrespect the highest traditions of the sport or change the nature of competition by practices that negate or diminish the impact of the core athletic skills that define the sport.

We also understand the effect that spectators have on the game, and have instituted the following Code of Conduct for Spectators.

## RESPECT

- Treat all participants, officials, coaches and fellow spectators with respect..
- Cheer with class. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect for all competitors.

## RESPONSIBILITY

- Consistently exhibit good character.
- Exercise self-control. Don't fight or show excessive displays of anger.
- Understand that attendance at the LAWSG is a privilege, not a right, and that you are expected to represent yourself, your team and your community with honor.

## CARING

- Encourage your team regardless of their play.
- Demonstrate concern for others.

## CITIZENSHIP

- Listen to and obey the requests of the LAWSG Staff. Remember that all regular laws also apply to spectators at sporting events. Drunkenness, verbal assault and fighting are punishable by law.

