



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council **Date:** January 22, 2019

From: Ralph Wright
Parks and Recreation Manager
Parks and Recreation Department **Item No:** 7

Subject: FEE WAIVER REQUEST FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS – INLAND
EMPIRE REGION’S USE OF THE AQUATIC CENTER AND THE
MICHAEL H. MARTIN GYMNASIUM

T.M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item:** Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For good cause shown, and finding a waiver will serve a public purpose, approve the waiver of the Facility Rental Fees in the amount of \$3,440.00.

SUMMARY:

Special Olympics - Inland Empire Region is using the Town’s Aquatic Center and the Michael H. Martin Gymnasium for their youth swimming and basketball program once a week for the months of Feb – June 2019. They are requesting a full or partial waiver of all fees associated with those rentals totaling \$4,812.80. Staff is recommending the waiver of the facility fees totaling \$3,440.00 and that the Special Olympics – Inland Empire Region pays the direct staffing costs associated with their rentals totaling \$1,372.80.

Additionally, Special Olympics will still be responsible for providing current insurance and a \$250 security Deposit to secure their dates. This program meets the criteria established for fee waivers as something that compliments the Town’s event schedule, offers an activity not otherwise available, serves a public purpose and is offered by a non-profit organization. The letter requesting the fee waiver is attached.

BACKGROUND:

Between the months of February and June for the past few years, the Special Olympics – Inland Empire Region has used the Town’s Aquatic Center and Gymnasium for their swimming and basketball program. The fees paid for use of the Town’s facility each year are significantly more than the other facilities used by the Special Olympics program throughout the inland empire. For the 2019 twelve-week use, the fees for the Aquatic Center are \$2,758.80 including the associated guard costs of \$982.80. The Michael H. Martin Gymnasium has rental fees totaling \$2,054.00 including the associated staffing costs for an attendant of \$390.00. The direct staffing costs associated with their scheduled use of both facilities is \$1,372.80, which staff recommends is paid by the non-profit.

Additionally, staff believes that there are opportunities to partner with the Special Olympics – Inland Empire Region to improve both the Town’s therapeutic recreation program, Special Apples and increase access and participation to the Special Olympics programming in our High Desert Community. Staff will be working with the Special Olympics – Inland Empire Region to develop such a partnership agreement benefiting our community.

On 8-14-01, the Town Council adopted a policy stating fees can be administratively waived for a local public agency, a utility company or service district, or a similar entity providing an essential service to the general community, whereas, non-profit requests for fee waivers must go before the Town Council for consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Although there is not an ongoing demand that is displaced with the request on this particular day, the waiving of these fees will result in the loss of potential revenue in the amount of \$3,440.00. The direct staffing costs will be paid by the Special Olympics-Inland Empire Region.



January 8, 2019
Town of Apple Valley
14955 Dale Evans Parkway
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Dear City Council:

Since 1969, Special Olympics Southern California has been changing lives through the power of sports. Our mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Locally, in the Inland Empire Region, Special Olympics programming is provided **to athletes and their families** through two distinct programs. Currently 1040 athletes participate in 12 Olympic-type sports offered through our **Community- Based Program**. Our athletes relish the social aspect of the team and cherish the opportunity to compete for medals in 10 regional or area competitions held throughout the year.

In addition, 524 students participate in our **Schools Program** offered at 24 elementary, middle and high schools throughout San Bernardino County. For many, this is one of the few opportunities they will have to benefit from the power of sports. As part of the Schools Program, we also offer the **Young Athletes Program**, which helps 360 children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2-7-years-old, through specially designed activities that foster physical, cognitive, and social development. Young Athletes is an early introduction to sports and to the world of Special Olympics.

As our Schools Program continues to grow, so does our need to establish local community-based programs so that the athletes can continue their sports participation once they matriculate from school. Establishing these programs consists of two key resources: 1) finding volunteer leadership within the community to develop and deliver the Program, and 2) finding facilities to host training and competitions.

The annual cost for an individual athlete to participate in Special Olympics is just over \$500 per year. Through the generosity of our friends, supporters, and community leaders, all programs are provided at no cost to the athletes or their families.

The Town of Apple Valley is a valued partner for Special Olympics in San Bernardino County. Your support of programs benefitting children and adults with intellectual disabilities will help positively shape their futures. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the Town of Apple Valley and the Parks and Recreation Department to develop a meaningful partnership to serve all individuals with intellectual disabilities in the community in the coming months.

Special Olympics Southern California - Inland Empire Region 41880 Kalmia Street, Suite 155, Murrieta, CA 92562 Tel 951-703-6502

Fax 951-461-0800

Email aleffler@sosc.org www.sosc.org/ie

To aid in our ability to serve our athletes, and potentially reach new athletes, our request to establish a partnership is as follows:

- ✓ Access to the Town of Apple Valley Aquatics and Gymnasium facilities at no cost, or reduced cost for 10-12 weeks (once a week at each site, for approximately two hours);
- ✓ Access to civic-minded Community Leaders to engage as volunteers to lead/develop the Local Program.

Your support is crucial to ensuring that current and new athletes can continue to participate in our life-changing programs at no cost to them or their families. Not only will you be contributing to a truly incredible organization, but your City will receive positive exposure and allow Special Olympics to invest more resources directly to the programs of our participating athletes.

Our athletes must overcome tremendous odds and face barriers to inclusion every single day. Their extraordinary determination shows society they are capable of achieving more than many thought possible. On-going training in sports teaches more than physical fitness. Athletes learn time management, medication compliance, healthy living habits, to be responsible for oneself and one's belongings, and to adapt to changes. All of these skills increase a person's ability to maintain a job, live independently, and be a productive member of society whether or not they have a disability. A study conducted by Yale University showed that Special Olympics athletes were twice as likely to be employed, compared to individuals with intellectual disabilities who did not participate in Special Olympics. Our programs are helping to establish the foundation for better performances at home, in school and in the workplace.

We are grateful for your support in granting our athletes the opportunity to realize their potential through Special Olympics.

On behalf of our athletes, thank you for caring and giving. We look forward to discussing this partnership opportunity further.



Respectfully,

Abbey Leffler
Regional Director
Inland Empire Region

Melanie Dube-Price
Area Director
Mojave River Valley

