



Hyattsville City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: December 11, 2017

Submitted by: Edouard Haba, W4 (Council Pres.)

Submitting Department: Legislative

Item Type: Budget

Agenda Section: Discussion Items (8:20 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

SUBJECT

FY19 Budget Initiative: Summer Literacy Program

HCC-140-FY18

Recommendation:

I move that the Mayor and Council appropriate up to \$2,600.00 in the FY19 Budget to fund a Summer Literacy Program at two (2) Hyattsville area elementary schools, Rosa Park and Edward Felegy Elementary Schools. The funds will be used to pay the background check fees for 20 volunteers, purchase materials for craft activities, purchase culturally and linguistically diverse fiction and nonfiction books for students to take home, pay the honorarium of two (2) bilingual coordinators. Additionally, the organizers agree to reimburse the City for the funded amount if their grant application with the County Council is approved and disbursed.

Sponsor(s):

Haba

Co-Sponsor(s):

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Summary Background:

During the summer of 2017, the City of Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee (EAC), faculty and students from University of Maryland – College Park (UMD), and the Rosa Parks Elementary School (RPES) PTA conducted a summer literacy program at RPES in coordination with staff from the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System. Volunteer UMD graduate and undergraduate students conducted once a week literacy programs for RPES children and families with the goal of maintaining summer access to library books and prevent reading loss that often occurs during the summer break.

Proposed Use of Requested Funds

1. Who is the target population? The City and EAC would like to continue the summer reading program at RPES and add a second elementary, Felegy Elementary school to the program. Both elementary schools receive Title 1 funding. Studies indicate that students from lower SES backgrounds lose up to three months of reading skills during the summer months and that much of the achievement gap by the time a child graduates from high school is related to lack of access during summer break (<http://education.jhu.edu/PD/newhorizons/Journals/spring2010/why-summer-learning/>). During the summer of 2017 over 67 children, ages 0 – 11 years and their parents participated in the program at RPES.

2. What type of service and/or programs will be provided? Faculty and students from UMD will hold weekly library reading hours at each elementary school. The reading program started with a short lesson to highlight phonemic awareness, vocabulary, or comprehension skills and then children had time to select and read books with

UMD volunteers or with their parents and siblings. During the summer of 2017, staff from the County library system visited the program to make sure that children and families had library card access, were enrolled in the summer reading incentive program as part of the project, and held parent workshops on available library services. Participants kept a reading log and submitted their records to the PGCMLS Summer @ Your Library Reading Initiative program.

3. Where will the services be provided and/or the programs be conducted in Prince George's County? We plan to use RPES and the Felegy Elementary School library as a "pop-up" library to supplement the County library services while the Hyattsville library is under reconstruction. We feel that families are more comfortable bringing their children to a familiar school library that is within walking distance from their homes. Research indicates that public library use decreases for families from lower socioeconomic backgrounds when the library is located more than six blocks from their homes (http://cdn.lexile.com/m/uploads/Stop_Summer_Academic_Loss.pdf). We plan to schedule the two-hour literacy block in the period between the Summer Meals breakfast and lunch program at the schools.

Next Steps:

Discussion

Fiscal Impact:

\$2,600

City Administrator Comments:

Staff will conduct analysis in accordance with Council direction.

Community Engagement:

The first edition of the summer literacy program took place this past summer at Rosa Park Elementary School.

Strategic Goals:

Goal 5 – Strengthen the City's Identity as a Diverse, Creative, and Welcoming Community

Legal Review Required?

N/A