



Agenda Report

19-627

Agenda Date: 6/4/2019

REPORT TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

Recognition of the NorCal Girls Fire Camp held at Santa Clara Fire Department on May 4 and May 5, 2019

BACKGROUND

Northern California Women in the Fire Service (NorCal WFS), a professional association, was founded in 2018 by a small group of women firefighters from departments in Santa Clara, Alameda County, Daly City, Oakland and Fremont. Santa Clara Fire Captain Jenn Panko is a NorCal WFS founding board member.

The mission of the organization is to provide a dynamic, deliberate network that mentors, educates and supports current and future fire service women. Nationwide, fewer than 5% of professional firefighters are women. NorCal WFS seeks to improve those numbers through professional development, mentorship and youth outreach.

NorCal WFS conducted their inaugural Girls Fire Camp last year with the City of Fremont Fire Department serving as the host fire agency. In 2019 the camp was hosted by the Santa Clara Fire Department.

The camp introduces high-school girls to the rigors of the job and the tools of the trade, with the goal of inspiring them to pursue a career in the fire service. In the interest of role modeling, the camp is conducted entirely by women firefighters. Girls Camp is dependent on local fire department hosts to provide the facilities and some of the firefighting equipment. This partnership between NorCal WFS and the hosting fire department serves as a recruiting tool to encourage more women to pursue a career in the fire service.

DISCUSSION

Girls Fire Camp, held at the Santa Clara Fire Department Training Center on May 4 and 5, 2019 hosted 52 high school girls from 32 cities around the Bay Area. Seven student participants were from the city of Santa Clara. The event was staffed by 115 women firefighters, representing 30 fire departments from the Bay Area, and as far away as Texas, Alaska and Hawaii. Nine women firefighters from the Santa Clara Fire Department led the planning and organization effort and staffed critical camp leadership positions. The camp's 12 training stations provided the girls hands-on experience with tools used in the fire service. The program concluded with a graduation ceremony that provided the participants recognition for their hard work and dedication.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(a) as it has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably

foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact other than staff time.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov <<mailto:clerk@santaclaraca.gov>> or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

Reviewed by: William G. Kelly, Fire Chief

Approved by: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager