



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2015
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Recognition of Monica Jones

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission recognize Monica Jones for her advocacy and fundraising efforts to support aquatic swim instruction for youth at Ortega Park swimming pool.

DISCUSSION: Dating back to 2009 when the Parks and Recreation Department was facing a \$1.5 million budget reduction, Ms. Jones has become an outspoken advocate for aquatic swim instruction and programming for the youth in this community. Ms. Jones who is a member of the Friends of Los Baños del Mar Pool, has actively and tirelessly raised funds to support their mission, which during the financial downturn significantly assisted the Aquatic Section to keep adult and youth aquatic programming open to the public.

More recently, Ms. Jones expressed enthusiasm and a desire to fundraise for a Free Learn to Swim program at Ortega Park swimming pool, similar to the program currently being funded by the Friends of Los Baños del Mar Pool at Los Baños swimming pool. Rather than simply ask for donations, Ms. Jones joined the "Sea Sprites", an all-woman relay team, to swim 19 miles across the Santa Barbara Channel from Santa Cruz to Oxnard. Each stroke that Monica churned over resulted in \$41 which is the amount required to pay for one child to receive two weeks of daily swimming lessons. Monica turned over enough strokes as she and her relay team braved the cold and rough water to raise a total of \$5,737. This funding will be used to fully subsidize 140 youth swim lessons at Ortega Park swimming pool this summer.

It is with great gratitude that the Parks and Recreation Department recognizes Monica Jones for her unwavering and exceptional support of important aquatic programming for youth in the community.

SUBMITTED BY: Rich Hanna, Recreation Manager

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director