

AN ORDINANCE 2008-06-12-0513

**AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF SAN ANTONIO TO REVISE
FEES FOR THE SUMMER YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS
MANAGED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.**

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WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department's Summer Youth Programs provide eight weeks of art and science activities, sports, crafts and games at schools and community centers; and

WHEREAS, youth, ages 6 to 12, are provided structured activities, as well as a free daily lunch and snack, with a 1:25 staff to participant ratio; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the Department of Community Initiatives (DCI) has contracted with delegate agencies to also provide Summer Youth Programs; and

WHEREAS, in order to expand the programs and available sites, City Council, in the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget, approved a sliding scale fee for the Summer Youth Programs; and

WHEREAS, fees were implemented in a four (4) tiered structure based upon federal poverty guidelines and determined according to family income, household size, and number of children participating in the program; and

WHEREAS, registration for the Summer Programs began earlier than usual because of the fee changes; and

WHEREAS, approximately 4,500 youth have registered in the program to date; and

WHEREAS, however, there has been public concern about the rates associated with the lowest income levels; and

WHEREAS, changes to the fees were necessary to ensure that no child be turned away from the summer program; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the new fees combined the two lowest income levels into one with the rate being \$20.00 for the first child with the family maximum of \$40.00 for the entire summer; and

WHEREAS, in order to encourage parents to participate in the program, the registration process has been streamlined to include such documents as utility bills that provide proof of address; and

WHEREAS, in addition, families will be able to access services through an affordability plan that is made available to participants of all Summer Programs through the DCI Center for Working Families (CWF); and

WHEREAS, through the CWF program, families can apply for assistance with the fee in conjunction with financial counseling and budgeting designed specifically to facilitate their long-term financial stability; and

WHEREAS, participants are also provided work and training opportunities, public benefits enrollment, and access to mainstream financial services; and

WHEREAS, a Communication Plan has been developed to inform families about the new fees and promote participation through media releases, public service announcements, and community meetings; and

WHEREAS, the City will continue to work closely with non-profit and community based organizations such as COPS/Metro to implement this plan; **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-21.1(n) of the City Code of the City of San Antonio shall be amended to read as follows:

(n) An annual fee shall be charged for participation in a summer youth program in accordance with the fee structure set forth below:

Summer Youth Program Fees (Kid Quest, Play Zone and other summer youth programs)			
Federal Poverty Level* (FPL)			
	150% of FPL and below	151% - 200% of FPL	201% and over of FPL
Annual Cost for 1 st Child	\$20.00	\$120.00	\$250.00
Each Additional Child	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$150.00
Annual Maximum Per Family	\$40.00	\$200.00	\$550.00

* depending on family or household size and as updated and published annually in January of each calendar year in the *Federal Register* (eg., the January 2007 Federal Poverty Guidelines are published in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 72, No. 15, January 15,2007, pp 3,147 – 3,148)

SW/mgc
06/12/08
Item #7

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage by eight (8) affirmative votes of the entire City Council; otherwise, said effective date shall be ten (10) days from the date of passage hereof.

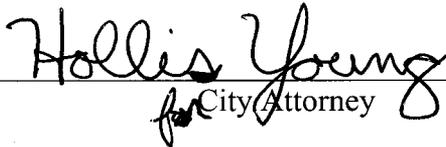
PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of June, 2008.



M A Y O R

PHIL HARDBERGER

ATTEST: 
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 
for City Attorney