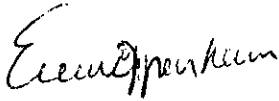


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

FROM: ELLEN OPPENHEIM 
General Manager

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL MEMO - RATES & FEES BOARD REPORT 01-241

Included in the recommendations for amending the Schedule of Rates and Fees (Board Report 01-241) is deletion of references to the Boy Scouts (BSA) as a "character building" or "community based" organization. Staff has stated in the body of the report that this action would not preclude the use of Department facilities by this or other organizations or change any existing fee requirements.

As point of clarification, inasmuch as the City is mandated by law to adhere to all nondiscrimination policies, staff is recommending that privileges and accommodations to community based organizations, specifically reductions or exemptions to the Schedule of Rates and Fees, not be extended to BSA because of its discriminatory policies, or any group or organization that discriminates on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical handicap, marital status or medical condition.

As discussed in City Council File 00-1590-S, BSA enforces discriminatory policies inasmuch as it excludes potential members and has expelled current members who are homosexual. On 2-15-99 the BSA national office issued a "Position statement on homosexuality and the BSA" which stated: "We believe that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the requirements in the Scout Oath that a Scout be morally straight and in the Scout law that a Scout be clean in word and deed, and that homosexuals do not prove a desirable role model for Scouts." BSA also enforces policies that exclude individuals who are agnostics and/or atheists. BSA bylaws contain the following statement: "The Boy Scouts of America maintain that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his obligation to God...The Boy Scouts of America, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training."

Therefore, BSA, being an organization which has discriminatory policies both in employment and criteria for program participation, will be subject to the standard fee based structure and policies covered under the Schedule of Rate and Fees. Further, staff will make similar recommendations for any group or organization that are found, in the future, to practice policies that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical handicap, marital status or medical condition.