

Press Release
City of Perris

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Perris Community Services Department Receives Awards of Excellence

PERRIS, Calif. (February 10, 2020) — The City of Perris is proud to announce the Community Services Department has received two Awards of Excellence from the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS).

The CPRS is a membership organization of more than 4,000 members representing more than 5000 parks and recreation agencies throughout the state, including the City of Perris.

The California Park & Recreation Society's Awards Program recognizes the outstanding achievements of agencies and individuals in the areas of community improvements and programming, facility design and park planning, marketing and communications, and professional and citizen leadership. The annual Awards Program is open to CPRS members and non-member individuals, agencies, organizations, companies, and universities.

The California Park & Recreation Society's mission is to advance the park and recreation profession through education, networking, resources and advocacy. It is a source of resources, tools, advocacy and events that strengthen California's public parks and recreation industry and its professionals.

The City of Perris Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) has been selected as a 2019 California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) Service Award of Excellence - Champion of the Community – Youth Development Category. The Champion of the Community award honors

and recognizes individuals or organizations who have contributed significant effort to influence and improve the quality of their community through parks and recreation. This recognition is a milestone for the YAC, who have met the highest standards for achieving excellence in their community.

The Perris Youth Advisory Committee is dedicated to empowering youth in order to improve our City's future. To fulfill their mission, the YAC works in partnership with the office of the Mayor, City Council Members, and other City and State Officials. Through these partnerships, members of the YAC gain firsthand experience and valuable knowledge regarding identifying a challenge facing the City, constructing plans for its solutions, the implementation of those plans and witnessing the positive results of the planning.



The Perris Youth Advisory Committee is currently accepting new applications for 2020-2021 for any youth who want to become more involved. The next YAC event will be the Park



Clean up at Paragon Park on February 15, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. Community service hours will be given to all those who participate. To fill out a YAC application, visit http://www.cityofperris.org/city-hall/forms/20-21_YAC_Application_Form.pdf.

The standard of excellence continues with the City of Perris Community Services Department and their selection as the 2019 California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) Award of Excellence recipient for the Grow Perris Initiative in the Creating Community– Community Health and Wellness Category.

The Grow Perris Initiative supports and promotes the Parks Make Life Better statewide branding campaign by understanding the critical need for parks and recreational green spaces through public involvement, growth stimulation and loyalty for park and recreation services.



With the development of community gardens with areas designated for group activities, the City offers green, park-like spaces. The initiative aims to improve health outcomes by expanding health equity through urban farming and reduce the risk of chronic diseases by mitigating food insecurity with increased accessibility and affordability of healthy goods to underserved communities.

Director Community Services Sabrina Chavez was proud to see the department honored with these awards.

“This is testament to the hard work and dedication of our Grow Perris Team and the Youth Advisory Committee,” said Chavez. “Awards like this put us on the map as a community

of excellence both locally and across the state of California. We hope to be an inspiration to other cities across California.”

Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez also commended the Grow Perris and YAC teams for their efforts.

“This is an honored moment for the City of Perris and it’s good to see our staff recognized for their work in our community,” said Belmudez. “I am proud of the work they have done and the standard they have set for our City.”



The two awards are the fourth and fifth awards of excellence received by the Community Services Department from the CPRS. Previously, the City had won the award of excellence in 2014 for Excellence in Design – Park Planning, Mercado Park, in 2017 for Marketing and

Communications for the On Track in Perris Newsletter and most recently in 2018 for Excellence in Design - Facility Design of the Statler Youth Center.

The California Parks and Recreation Society has also invited the City of Perris to give a presentation on building and sustaining the Perris Youth Advisory Committee at the annual CPRS conference in Long Beach, March 10 – 13, 2020. The conference will conclude with a dinner and awards ceremony on Friday, March 13, 2020 where the department will be presented with their awards.

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