



CITY OF COSTA MESA

Administrative Services Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Steven E. Hayman, Administrative Services Director

DATE: May 11, 2004

SUBJECT: Response to City Council Comments: Mr. Mike Berry

At the March 1, 2004 City Council meeting, Mr. Berry presented a copy of the City of Newport Beach Joint Use Agreement with the Newport Mesa Unified School District and requested staff compare the agreement with the existing City of Costa Mesa Joint Use agreement, and address the financial impact and differences in allowed usage.

Both Cities have Joint Use Agreements with the NMUSD. Costa Mesa has had an agreement as far back as 1963. The existing Costa Mesa JUA was adopted by Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2002. The existing Newport Beach JUA was adopted in 1987. Prior to the 2002 JUA, the Newport Beach and Costa Mesa agreements were virtually identical.

The 2002 Costa Mesa JUA is a much broader document than prior agreements, and provides significant benefits to both agencies. The City now receives access and is responsible for permitting and allocating all school athletic fields after 4pm on weekdays, and all day on weekends. This arrangement more than quadruples the fields available for youth athletic programs and creates a "one stop permit" process where user groups can obtain a permit from a single agency. Under the existing Newport Beach JUA and prior Costa Mesa agreement, user groups would have to approach both agencies in a somewhat time consuming process to obtain a permit for their athletic field use, one permit for City facilities and one permit for school facilities. Permits for schools often were obtained by going to each individual school principal.

The City of Costa Mesa owns or leases only 14 athletic fields. The Joint Use Agreement gives the City access to 54 additional fields. Costa Mesa, in return for the expanded access to fields, assists in the maintenance of those fields, contributing approximately \$50,000 toward landscape maintenance of school fields.

As mentioned above, under the 1987 Newport Beach JUA, user groups must obtain permits from both the City and the District for field use, depending on the location. Newport Beach does pay the District approximately \$30,000 per year for the use of Lincoln School, a former school site that has both baseball and soccer fields.

Newport Beach, like Costa Mesa, owns only a few fields and has a greater demand for fields than supply

and has entered discussion with the District to create a JUA similar to Costa Mesa's.

In speaking with City of Newport Beach staff, while the language in the JUA appears to be very restrictive, "*City shall restrict its facility use request to those district facilities located within the boundaries of the City*", staff from both Cities work together to accommodate user groups in the fairest manner. Groups that straddle the Costa Mesa/Newport Beach border are allocated fields in the City where the majority of residents are located. For example, if 70% of the user group's participants are Newport Beach residents, the group will be placed in Newport Beach. There are several groups that straddle the border and are comprised of residents from both Costa Mesa and Newport Beach.

In Costa Mesa, we do have a "residency factor" used in determining the priority for field allocations, which has been established by both City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission. There are a couple groups, such as Newport Harbor Baseball whose participants are from both cities and play on fields in both Costa Mesa and Newport Beach, but are considered "grand fathered" in the Costa Mesa JUA by Council/Commission. From the District's perspective, they are all DISTRICT facilities, and not "Newport Beach's" or "Costa Mesa's".

Demand continues to grow for athletic fields and all entities are searching for solutions in order to accommodate user groups. Costa Mesa continues to fine tune the 2002 JUA, which is one of the first of its kind, and Newport Beach is in preliminary discussions with the School District on a new JUA. All entities are working together to accommodate groups in the fairest possible manner.

If you need any additional information, please contact Jana Ransom, Recreation Manager, or I for more information on the Joint Use Agreement.