



**Interoffice Memorandum**

July 3, 2019

**AGENDA ITEM**

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
-AND-  
Board of County Commissioners

THRU: Lonnie C. Bell, Jr., Director *Lonnie C Bell Jr*  
Community and Family Services Department

FROM: **Matt Suedmeyer, Manager**  
**Parks and Recreation Division**  
**Contact: (407) 836-6202**

SUBJECT: **Consent Agenda Item – July 16, 2019**  
Waiver of Fee for Parks and Recreation Afterschool Program

The Parks and Recreation Division provides afterschool programs for elementary school age children at 12 locations throughout Orange County. In an effort to serve as many children as possible with the most efficiency, the Division is requesting to remove the nominal attendance fee to attend the afterschool program at all locations. This request will provide access for all children who want to participate, consistency in the fee schedule, and a more cost effective operational program.

In addition to the above efficiencies, the request will resolve a requirement from the Florida Department of Children and Families that Orange County apply for licensing as a child care agency at each location. Licensing costs would exceed an additional \$1.01M in staffing, training, and transportation over a five-year cycle. There is no appreciable benefit to securing a child care license. The County already conducts Level II background screenings on staff, administers comprehensive training, addresses all sanitation and safety items with the State Health Department, and offers a safe transportation service through Orange County Public Schools busing. Either of two means may secure exemption from child care licensing. The County may eliminate supervision of the children, which is counter-productive to the care and enrichment of the children. Alternatively, the County may eliminate the registration fee for the program and then continue to offer full services to families.

The Board approved Fee Schedule grants that “Management may elect not to collect fees in cases where fee collection is physically or financially impractical.” Eliminating the fee for the afterschool programs will remove any remaining barriers to participation, provide exemption from childcare licensing which saves the County money, and allow uninterrupted service for 1000 children in August. Any gap between family need and services for child care would be reduced by this waiver of fees.

**ACTION REQUESTED: Authorization for the Parks and Recreation Division to apply the provision in the County Fee Directory electing not to collect registration fees for after school programs. (Parks and Recreation Division)**

MS:jam

c: Randy Singh, Deputy County Administrator  
Yolanda Brown, Fiscal Manager, Community and Family Services Department  
Auria Oliver, Management & Budget Advisor, Office of Management and Budget