



Bellevue Police Department

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 4, 2016

To: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

From: Marjorie Trachtman, Program Administrator
Bellevue Police Department

Phone: 425-452-6017

Subject: National Volunteer Week

The week of April 10-16, 2016 is designated as National Volunteer Week by *Points of Light*, an international nonprofit, nonpartisan organization devoted to encouraging volunteer service. The City of Bellevue is fortunate to benefit from the time and talents of hundreds of volunteers who collectively serve tens of thousands of hours each year. The estimated annual value of this service runs into the millions of dollars.

Volunteers play a key role in the City's ability to provide services to its citizens by supporting numerous events, programs and committees across the City. Below is just a partial list of the projects and programs that benefit from the work done by volunteers and unpaid student interns across the City:

- Transportation – developing a process to track and update actual Maintenance and Operation costs to allow for real-time calculations; data analysis and planning for Transportation Demand Management programs; compiling best-practice and safety data for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative; supporting traffic safety education programs for middle and high school students.
- City Attorney's Office – providing basic legal research; drafting of legislation, contracts, legal opinions and other types of documents.
- Police – staffing two Community Police Stations; issuing disabled and fire lane parking citations; shuttling Patrol vehicles to and from the maintenance center each morning; providing forensic accounting expertise; tracking stolen property; serving on officer hiring panels; assisting citizens who have been victims of identity theft and/or burglaries.
- Fire – forming Citizen Emergency Response Teams to help in the event of natural disasters; staffing the Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services (C.A.R.E.S.) program to help citizens access needed services and reduce reliance on emergency responders.

- Parks and Community Services – utilizes the greatest number of volunteers by far, encompassing numerous programs at the Botanical Garden, Aquatic and Tennis centers, Probation, community and recreation centers, Youth Link, Cultural Conversations, and innumerable additional contributions.
- Planning and Community Development – serving as mediators, facilitators, and telephone conciliators to help residents resolve conflicts.

The work accomplished by volunteers allows City staff to focus on first-line tasks that only they can do, and enables the City to offer expanded or enhanced programs and services. Those who volunteer get the chance to learn first-hand how their City government operates, gain valuable work experience, and have the opportunity to serve their neighbors and become connected to their larger community. It is truly a win-win experience for all.

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, it is requested that Council issue a proclamation in appreciation and support of the contributions of all citizen volunteers at the City of Bellevue.