

# **Teen Activities and Programs**



To: Brian Denmark, Assistant City Manager/COO *BD*  
From: Phil Catanach, Recreation Manager *P.C. 10/15/12*  
Date: October 15, 2012  
Subject: Work session presentation – Teen Activities  
File No.: R-12-331

Below you will find a summary of the work session presentation scheduled for October 22, 2012. The presentation is a joint commission that will be introduced by Ms. Amber Parker, Juvenile Diversion Programs Supervisor and Jake Gutierrez, CLC Recreation Program Manager.

Each quarter, members of the Las Cruces City Council as well as department directors and other senior level staff come together as a Civic Leaders Panel and meet with teens in Juvenile Citation Program Diversion Program III. Through this process, the youth are given the opportunity to dialogue with the City leaders and elected officials about any topic they choose. One of the topics which all of the teens who have had the opportunity to meet with the leaders have brought up has been the lack of access to social and recreational activities. As a result of these meetings, staff has been given direction to provide council with an understanding of what current activities and services are being provided to teens in our community as well as barriers to youth engagement.

If you have any questions, need further information or clarification, please call me at 541-2550.

cc: Mark Johnston, Parks and Recreation Director *MJ*

# Teen Life in Las Cruces



# Background

- The City's Juvenile Citation Program, is a 3-tiered program for young offenders.
- Teens in JCP3 have an opportunity to meet with a Civic Leaders Panel as part of their program.
- Teens choose discussion topics
  - Reoccurring theme: **lack of access to social and recreational activities.**
- Staff directed to inform Council about current activities and services as well as barriers to youth engagement.

# Purpose of Today's Presentation

- Acknowledge activities currently offered by the City of Las Cruces and outside entities.
- Identify barriers to reaching and engaging teens with diverse talents and interests.
- Next Steps.

# Chalk Art Festival



# Groups and Programs

- City Departments
- School Sponsored Activities, Groups and Organizations
- Health and Wellness Organizations
- Religious Organizations
- Civic Organizations
- Private Sports Organizations
- Private Sector Groups

# Parks and Recreation Programs

- Teen Splash
  - Midnight Basketball
  - Teen Nights @ Meerscheidt Recreation Center
  - Teen Fridays @ The Regional Aquatic Center
  - Teen Nights @ East Mesa Recreation Center
  - Teen Nights @ Henry Benavidez Community Center
  - Mid-School and High School Basketball
  - High School Volleyball
- (Club Fusion Teen Center closed July 1, 2011)

# Barriers to Reaching Teens

- Access to Transportation
- Financial
- Social

# TEENS GET INVOLVED



# Next Steps – What Can Be Done

- Survey Teens
- Assemble stakeholders for strategic planning and coordination.
- Create partnerships for collaboration on programming
- Leverage funding sources
- Teen programming resource guide

**Questions?**

**Council Direction**