



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Board of Supervisors



Date: November 21, 2013
Board Meeting Date: January 7, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Warren Slocum

Subject: Appointment of Meda Okelo to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation for the appointment of Meda Okelo as the District 4 representative to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission, expiring on January 10, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for establishing policies to guide the work of the County's Department of Parks. This includes issues of parkland use management such as master plans, acquisitions, and development. The Commission is actively involved in helping set budget priorities and fostering the recruitment and placement of volunteers in County parks.

Commissioners receive input from citizens on County Parks issues and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Board of Supervisors. They also act as liaison to a number of support groups such as the Parks' Foundation, Volunteer Roundtable, and other ad hoc committees that may be appointed. They may serve as Commission liaison to special projects, especially related to master plan developments.

DISCUSSION:

Supervisor Warren Slocum recommends the appointment of Medo Okelo to the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Okelo, born and raised in Nairobi, Kenya, came to the United States as a graduate student at Stanford University. He has been an active resident in his adopted home town of East Palo Alto for over 30 years. Mr. Okelo served as the Community Services Director of East Palo Alto for 23 years, retiring from the position in 2011. As part of his duties in this position, he was responsible for developing and implementing goals and

objectives for the city's Recreation and Parks Departments, including coordination of the Parks Capital Improvement fundraising program. He also developed the East Palo Alto Summer Sports Camp/Reading Enhancement Program, the Summer Performing Arts Camp, the Summer Rainbow Camp, and the Young Adult Diversion Program giving youth sports/life skills training. He is currently a Public Relations consultant for a local Special District and Publisher of an informational resource guide for East Palo Alto.

Mr. Okelo holds a BA degree in Political Science and French from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, an MA degree in Applied Communications Research from Stanford University, and an MPA in Public Administration from California State University East Bay. His hobbies include camping, hiking, photography and travel.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.