



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: June 10, 2015

Board Meeting Date: June 16, 2015

Special Notice / Hearing: None

Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: County Manager's Report #11

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this informational report.

BACKGROUND:

This report will provide you with updates on a variety of County initiatives focusing on Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Services and Performance, in addition to reports on legislation and issues that require your action. We also will keep you and the public informed about new services, upcoming events and general updates.

DISCUSSION:

Health and Human Services

County offering veteran IDs

The Human Services Agency now issues standardized identification cards to honorably discharged County veterans which allow them to more easily receive discounts at local businesses through an easy-to-carry confirmation of their status with an attached photo. The card program is free and available by appointment at the Veterans Service Office on Harbor Boulevard to the thousands of veterans that call San Mateo County home. The program is also helpful in highlighting other County services and programs for veterans.

Community Services

Housing manager lauded for workshop know-how

At April's Housing California Conference, Rental Programs Manager Cindy Chan from the County's Department of Housing led a workshop on project-based vouchers for homeless veterans which can be used in new construction projects like Willow Housing

on the VA campus in Menlo Park. Conference attendees dubbed the idea the “Cindy Chan model” and she receives many calls from throughout California seeking her expertise.

Parks

Park benefactor’s niece visits his namesake

County Parks officials and friends were honored to show off Sam McDonald Park to his grandniece whom traveled to San Mateo County from Indiana in late May. The tour was the first by any McDonald relatives in recent years.

Sam bequeathed nearly half the property for the 850-acre facility, wanting it enjoyed by many generations, especially children. He worked for Stanford University most of his life and was dedicated to visiting sick children. He was also a horse trainer, accordionist and attended every Big Game for 50 years before his 1957 death.

Performance

Coroner’s Office wins state efficiency award

Kudos to the Coroner’s Office which earned an efficiency award from the California Department of Public Health in the large county category for having zero pending death certificates for the 2014 calendar year. Of 4,447 deaths, the County had a zero percent rating. In second place, San Diego County had nine pending certificates. The state average is 29.78 percent, according to CDPH’s Center for Health Statistics and Informatics.

County CIO among Bay Area’s best

San Mateo County Chief Information Officer Jon Walton is one of three finalists for the Bay Area CIO award presented by the Silicon Valley Business Journal, San Francisco Business Times and Price WaterCooper. Jon is in the “community champion” category.

Jon and the others will be honored June 18 at the annual CIO Awards event at Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. The winner will be announced at the ceremony.

News, Events and updates

County Hackathon generates dozens of ideas

Harnessing the power of San Mateo County’s creative and tech-savvy residents — and fueled by donated caffeine-infused coconut water — the County hosted its first-ever hackathon June 6 with tremendous results. Hack-SMC participants used the County’s open data portal and technology to create web and mobile apps to improve the community or streamline services.

Twenty-three teams with approximately 70 total hackers participated in the all-day event, including one 12-year-old who created an app to help foster youth connect with job and volunteer opportunities. The four judges were so impressed with the results they spontaneously added four honorable mentions with a \$500 prize each to the originally planned first through third place awards. A total of \$11,500 was awarded and departments are now discussing how best to use the applications.

First prize went to team “Homeless Analytics” which developed an app to help policymakers better collect data and make decisions about allocating resources for the homeless. Other winning ideas mapped ADA issues (like the lack of a ramp); gave reading analytics for third-graders and mapped school participation; encouraged third-grade reading by recommending books; created an “Uber” for leftover food; and let parents track student progress on demand through a website that also gives school ratings and consolidates the registration process.

Congratulations to everyone who participated, from the hackers to the organizers to the sponsors!

New agenda administrator named

I’m pleased to welcome Sukhmani Purewal to the County Manager’s Office as our new agenda administrator. Sukhmani comes from Mendocino County where he served as deputy clerk of the board and has extensive experience supporting the Board of Supervisors, Clerk of the Board and Assessment Appeals Board. He starts Monday, June 22.