



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 11, 2023

TO: Parks and Recreation Department Employees

FROM: Andy Field, Parks and Recreation Director, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2023 Parks and Recreation Department Employees of the Year

It is my pleasure to announce our Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2023 Employees of the Year.

The Parks and Recreation Department selected four Employees of the Year: two in classifications represented by the Municipal Employees Association (MEA), or classified/unrepresented, and two represented by AFSCME Local 127. These four Department Employees of the Year (EOY) each receive a \$500 cash award and 24 hours of discretionary leave (prorated for employees in part-time and hourly positions, per Administrative Regulation 95.91, Employee Recognition and Rewards Programs). Like the Employees of the Quarter, the Employees of the Year are nominated by the employees' peers. Nominations are approved by each Division's Deputy Director and forwarded to the department's Rewards and Recognition Committee for selection. All Mayoral Department Employees of the year are automatically considered for Citywide Employee of the Year. The Citywide Employees of the Year have not yet been selected.

With so many outstanding and richly deserving employees, the selection of just four of our employees for Fiscal Year 2023 Department Employee of the Year was quite difficult. I am well aware that the Parks and Recreation Department is fortunate to have more than its share of hard-working, caring, dedicated and talented employees who ALL deserve recognition and thanks, and not all of these employees are chosen or nominated for this recognition.

I sincerely appreciate those of you who take the time out of your busy schedule to nominate deserving employees, both for Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year, and I encourage you to keep it up. Showing our appreciation and recognizing each other for hard work and accomplishments is key to forging a strong and effective department, one where we all feel appreciated and valued for our efforts and contributions.

I certainly value all Parks and Recreation employees. It gives me great pleasure to have a program that encourages you to recognize and value each other. So please keep those

wonderful EOQ and EOY nominations coming—they are greatly appreciated not just by me, but by those who are working so hard to keep **Parks and Recreation the Best Department in the City!**

Please join me in congratulating our Parks and Recreation Department's Fiscal Year 2023 Employees of the Year:

Parks and Recreation Employees of the Year represented by AFSCME Local 127:

Charles “Chuck” Warren, Equipment Technician II:

Charles' skills, knowledge and expertise have been utilized on many occasions to prevent and eliminate safety hazards and concerns. He is the kind of individual that will assist anyone in need, even if it's putting his own needs last. This past winter had many storms that knocked down quite a few trees. In an incident in Balboa Park, a 100-foot eucalyptus tree fell, trapping a citizen between a wall barrier and the sidewalk. Charles was working on site and ran to the rescue. He put on his PPE and started cutting limbs off the fallen tree to rescue the patron. This brave and kind act shows his selflessness and character, and that he possesses the heart of service to this department and City.

Hector Meza, Equipment Technician II:

Hector is the Equipment Technician for 28 areas in Mission Bay Parks, which encompasses over 4,200 acres. He is responsible for the repairs and service of all power equipment for 60 maintenance workers. He does an excellent job keeping equipment maintained as well as keeping up with repairs and maintenance of irrigation isolation valves, lateral lines, 84 battery timers, manual valves, over 1,000 electric valves and 55 weather controllers. Hector is extremely knowledgeable about the park's irrigation needs and is willing to work overtime to address irrigation emergencies, including call backs after hours. Additionally, he is a pleasure to work with and is always willing to help and share his knowledge with the team.

Parks and Recreation Employees of the Year represented by MEA or Classified/Unrepresented:

Daniel Mielke, Recreation Specialist:

Dan has demonstrated exceptional dedication in ensuring the smooth operation of Mission Bay over the past year. Despite facing numerous challenges such as being understaffed, major on-course lighting issues, and ongoing construction at the facility, Dan has tirelessly managed these obstacles. He has navigated the ever-changing circumstances, ensuring the safety and convenience of the customers. Dan has been instrumental in adapting to frequent changes, such as the weekly relocation of staging areas for carts and the daily updates to signage and communications, all aimed at providing customers with the most up-to-date information. Thanks to Dan's unwavering commitment, the Golf Division's services have remained uninterrupted, even with Mission Bay Golf Course hosting approximately 500 people per day. Without his invaluable efforts, the golf course would have experienced a significant loss of customers and revenue. Dan is one of Golf's most committed and hardworking employees and is absolutely deserving of this award and recognition.

Tiffany Swiderski, Senior Park Ranger:

Senior Park Ranger Tiffany is very passionate about the San Diego River Park and tributary canyons. She is dedicated to serving the citizens of San Diego and truly demonstrates a heart of service. Her area of responsibility extends from Mission Valley to Lakeside, where she worked with staff to remove over 12,000 pounds of trash, plus an additional 25,000 pounds of trash while collaborating with the San Diego River Park Foundation. The San Diego River watershed is one of the areas most impacted by unsheltered individuals within the open space park system. Tiffany continues to make a difference every day and works closely with organizations to get those who want help connected with services. Given the many accomplishments she has achieved this past year, Tiffany is highly deserving of the Employee of the Year award.

Thank you **Charles “Chuck” Warren, Hector Meza, Daniel Mielke, and Tiffany Swiderski.**
You make the Parks and Recreation Department and me very proud!

Our department is truly fortunate to have so many talented and caring employees with a true heart of service, and a passion for giving back to the community. I am proud to head a department with SO many excellent, dedicated employees, and my appreciation goes out to all of you for making Parks and Recreation the best department in the City.

The Parks and Recreation Department ROCKS!!

Sincerely,



Andy Field
Parks and Recreation Director

AF/jr

cc: Kristina Peralta, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Karen Dennison, Parks and Recreation Department Assistant Director
Tom Tomlinson, Parks and Recreation Department Assistant Director
Parks and Recreation Department Rewards and Recognition Committee Members
Sophia Williams, Senior Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Department