

**CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

Meeting Date: November 21, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Chief Grimm, Interim City Manager

Subject: West Point CPRC Thanksgiving Hometown Visit Program

Background: On October 31, the City received a request to present to the Council from Sofia Zhang Fernandez and provide information to the Community regarding life at West Point

The email is below,

My name is Sophia Zhang-Fernandez, I am currently in my second year at the United States Military Academy at West Point. My dad, Alex Fernandez, messaged me the other night regarding his discussion with you in the City of Belle Isle and encouraged me to reach out to you. I am sure he mentioned it, but I have been recently contacted and selected by the Cadet Public Relations Coordinator at West Point to participate in a Thanksgiving Hometown Visit Program, ranging from 18 – 22 Nov 2023. During this time, my duty will be to make appearances within my hometown to represent West Point within local communities. This consists of participating in public relations events with local schools or colleges, youth organizations, or other settings to encourage future applicants to look into the process and to provide overall information.

Having grown up in Belle Isle my entire life and attending the local Cornerstone Charter Academy, I have been able to watch the city and community flourish throughout the years. Thus, Belle Isle means a great amount to me, as it not only holds my childhood memories but is also the home that I return to whenever I leave West Point. As such, I was wondering if there is a possibility to set up a small event, short informational briefing, or a discussion with the city or police department. This does not necessarily need to be a major event, but if there happen to be any meetings or events occurring throughout these dates, it would mean a lot to me if I could provide a short brief. The primary target audience for this program is students in high school, middle school, or even some in college (however, any other audiences are welcome as well) and those who are specifically interested in applying to service academies and military branches. Within the discussion, I will be able to provide information regarding life at West Point and discuss my journey beginning in Belle Isle and the influences that propelled me onto the path to service.

Again, if the City of Belle Isle or the police department could provide any assistance through holding events or meetings, it would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you would like more information.

Very respectfully,
CDT Sophia Zhang-Fernandez
Foxtrot Company, 4th Regiment.
Class of 2026 - Cell: (407)-437-6716

Staff Recommendation: NA

Suggested Motion: NA

Alternatives: None

Fiscal Impact: NA

Attachments: None