



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of August 28, 2023

Title/Subject

Employee Recognition for Hermiston Family Aquatic Center's Achievement of the 2022 Aquatic Examiner Service Award from the American Red Cross.

Summary and Background

The purpose of this staff report is to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center (HFAC) in receiving the prestigious 2022 Aquatic Examiner Service Award from the American Red Cross. This commendable recognition is a testament to the aquatic center's commitment to excellence in training, safety, and supervision, as evidenced by rigorous lifeguard audits and observations conducted by the American Red Cross.

Background:

The Hermiston Family Aquatic Center has consistently demonstrated a dedication to maintaining the highest standards in aquatic safety and lifeguard training. This commitment has been upheld by the aquatic center's key personnel, including:

- **Kasia Robbins**, Aquatic Center Manager
 - **Janell Davis**, Aquatic Center Assistant Manager
 - **Mya Hayden**, Aquatic Center Assistant Manager
 - **Keith Holman**, Head Lifeguard Supervisor and Head LGI
 - **Jessica Campbell**, Lifeguard Supervisor, LGI
 - **Amyrissa Wyse**, Lifeguard Supervisor, LGI
 - **Dylan Westfall**, Lifeguard Supervisor, LGI
- *LGI (Lifeguard Instructor)

These staff members have undertaken significant efforts to elevate the quality of training provided to lifeguards. Notably, a pioneering in-service regimen was established to enhance lifeguard skills and preparedness.

Details:

The HFAC's achievement of the 2022 Aquatic Examiner Service Award was a result of a comprehensive evaluation process conducted by the American Red Cross. Rigorous lifeguard audits and observations were carried out to assess the center's adherence to safety protocols, staff competence, and overall operational excellence. Following these evaluations, the aquatic

center and its staff were recognized for their exceptional performance in training, safety enforcement, and vigilant supervision of aquatic activities.

A noteworthy innovation introduced by the HFAC's supervisory team, led by Aquatic Center Manager, Kasia Robbins, is the daily in-service training regimen. In a departure from the traditional monthly in-service sessions lasting 1-2 hours, the aquatic center instituted a groundbreaking practice of conducting daily in-service training sessions before the commencement of open swim shifts. This approach was implemented recognizing that studies have demonstrated a rapid decline in the ability to correctly administer CPR within just a few days after training. By integrating daily in-service training along with the development of the Hermiston Drowning Prevention Program, the HFAC has exhibited a proactive commitment to maintaining lifeguards' skills at their peak and ensuring optimal readiness to respond to emergencies.

Impact:

The introduction of the daily in-service regimen and the drowning prevention program at HFAC has led to significant positive outcomes. It has improved both staff morale and community safety by addressing the decline in effectiveness of life-saving skills, enhancing the readiness of lifeguards to handle critical situations. These innovative approaches not only reduce water-related accidents but also increase public awareness of essential water safety practices. Ultimately, they contribute to creating a safer and more reassuring aquatic center environment for our community members.

Conclusion:

The Hermiston Family Aquatic Center's achievement of the 2022 Aquatic Examiner Service Award from the American Red Cross is a testament to the dedicated efforts of the staff and management. Their commitment to implementing cutting-edge training practices and ensuring the highest level of safety standards deserves commendation. The City Council is recommended to recognize the HFAC's accomplishment and express its appreciation for their ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of our community.

Submitted By:

Brandon Artz, Parks & Recreation Director