

# Paul Culley Elementary School Community Partnership Overview

September 2007

## *At-A-Glance*

- In November 2006, Merlinda Gallegos, Director of Corporate Philanthropy for MGM/Mirage Corporation, approached Neighborhood Services about a possible partnership for a community impact project
- MGM/Mirage is the corporate sponsor of the Clark County School district Paul Culley Elementary Empowerment School. The corporation had made several investments in curriculum, program and physical improvements at the school, and was interested in expanding their efforts to improve the community where the students return at the end of the school day.
- MGM/Mirage committed to matching dollar for dollar any investment provided by the City.
- Several meetings were held with city staff Kelly Benavidez, Harry Williams, Franklin Simpson and Cathy Watson to review data and develop a possible proposal.
- With the assistance of data provided by Mike Grietz and further research including the number MGM/Mirage employees living in the area, the committee decided to expand the scope of the project to include three schools and the surrounding neighborhoods: Paul Culley and J. T. McWilliams in Ward 5, and Vail Pittman in Ward 1.
- The boundaries of the target area are Vegas Drive, Decatur boulevard, US 95 and Torrey Pines Drive
- The neighborhood impact plan consists of the following three major components.
  - *Organize the Surrounding Neighborhood:* Neighborhood Services has committed to work with these neighborhood residents to establish neighborhood associations and learn more about the needs and issues in the area. School administrators will play a vital role in these associations by developing a stronger relationship between the neighborhood and the school through open communication.
  - *Create Community Resource Centers on the School Campus:* Using dedicated space within the school facility, resource centers will be established where parents and community residents can access a computer and obtain information to assist with identified needs, i.e., food and clothing assistance and translation services. Residents would also be able to attend various workshops and classes offered through the resource center.
  - *Provide Programs and Activities Through Outreach Services:* Leisure Services has agreed to provide after school activities for the entire family with the assistance of funding from MGM/Mirage. Outreach staff would also assist with staffing the Community Resource Center. The estimated annual cost for a new outreach site, including staff, is \$35,552.
- After Councilman Weekly announced his plans to leave the city, the plan was put on hold until the new City Council person took office and approved this project.

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- The neighborhood associations around Pittman and Paul Culley Elementary School have been established and are meeting on a regular basis.
- Because of limited funding and resources, Leisure Services staff is only able to provide an Outreach Services team at one of the selected schools. Services will no longer be offered at Halle Hewetson Elementary School, and Outreach Services staff will be reassigned to Paul Culley elementary School.
- Now that there is a new Ward 5 Councilman, MGM/Mirage is interested in resuming implementation of this project.

*Fall Session*

Through the Paul Culley Elementary Empowerment School Partnership, Outreach Services staff will begin providing weekly services on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3 pm to 6 pm for students in third through fifth grade. The following educational activities/clubs will be available immediately after school:

- 4-H Club
- Photography Club
- Homework Club (for children in third, fourth and fifth grades)
- Art Club
- Nurturing Parents and Families (in Spanish)
- Basic Computer Class
- Youth Council
- Super Saturday special events will be held twice a year in Spring 2008. (Construction has prohibited special events until after the first of the year.)

Additionally, on the first Tuesday of each month, a private vendor will provide health and education workshops.

The following City/CCSD partnership events will be held at Paul Culley Elementary School:

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| • October 3              | Open House           |
| • November 7, 6pm to 7pm | Literacy Night       |
| • TBA, 10am to 2pm       | Super Saturday Event |