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## CITY OF SACRAMENTO

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
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February 14, 1986

JOHN P. KEARNS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

Budget & Finance Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: PARK RANGER PROGRAM

### SUMMARY

The City Council, as part of the 85/86 budget, approved a Park Ranger Program to be run jointly by the Police and Parks & Community Services Departments. The program was designed to utilize six (6) Community Service Officers throughout the City's parks starting in January 1986. An interim plan utilizing off-duty Police Officers was implemented for the July through December 1985 time period. The Special Overtime Program using the off-duty officers has been very successful and it is proposed that this arrangement be continued during the remainder of fiscal year 1985-86 and next year.

### BACKGROUND

The Police and the Parks & Community Services Departments submitted a Park Ranger Proposal as part of the 85/86 budget. The program was designed to utilize six (6) Community Service Officers as Park Rangers throughout the City's parks. The Park Rangers were to cite violators of park ordinances, give assistance to citizens and observe and report police problems or park hazards to the respective departments. The Community Service Officers were scheduled to begin in January 1986, after their graduation from the Sacramento Police Academy and specialized park ranger training. They were to be issued Police radios and be equipped with mace and batons for their self defense.

An interim program was designed to fill the time period July through December, 1985 utilizing off-duty officers as part of a special overtime program negotiated with the Sacramento Police Officer's Association. The hourly wage for the off-duty officers was \$12.00 per hour.

During the six months of the Special Overtime Program, off-duty officers worked approximately 2,000 hours utilizing two mobile units - one working the downtown and north areas and the other working the south and east areas. Their shifts varied from four to eight hours, depending on the amount of activity in the

parks. The officers made over 5,000 contacts, investigated numerous noise and juvenile disturbance complaints, and made arrests for drunk in public, armed robbery, and a variety of warrant charges. The officers drove a marked Police unit throughout the City as they moved from park to park at a total cost of approximately \$24,000 for the 2,000 hours. During this time, neither the Police nor the Parks & Community Service Department received any complaints from the citizens of Sacramento regarding the quality of service.

FINANCIAL DATA

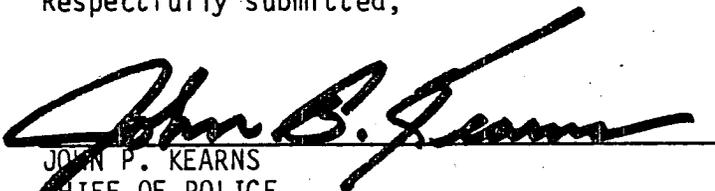
The cost for the Park Ranger Program in the 1986/87 budget using six (6) Community Service Officers would be \$120,126 for salary and benefits. The cost of training and equipping the Community Service Officers would be additional.

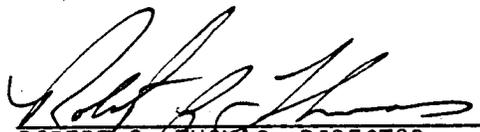
Off-duty Police Officers can provide 10,000 hours of coverage working as one-officer units for the same cost. This amount of hours will provide coverage for both the City's parks and Community Centers.

RECOMMENDATION

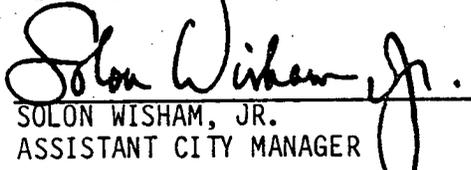
It is the Police and Parks & Community Services Departments' recommendation for the remainder of the 1985/86 and the 1986/87 fiscal year that the Special Overtime Program be utilized to provide personnel for the Park Ranger Program.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JOHN P. KEARNS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

  
ROBERT P. THOMAS, DIRECTOR  
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

  
SOLON WISHAM, JR.  
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

JPK:ket

REF: 2-22