

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____ (CCS)

(City Council Series)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA CONFIRMING
THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING
INCIDENCES OF ABUSE OF CHILDREN IN ANY CITY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, in October 2018, Eric Uller, who was at the time employed with the City's Information Services Department, was arrested by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and charged by the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office with five felony sexual crimes against four minors; and

WHEREAS, the criminal charges related to alleged incidents of abuse that dated back to 1989 and occurred while Uller was working or volunteering at the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL); and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2018, a date on which Uller was scheduled to appear in court on the criminal charges, Uller was found dead in his apartment, in an apparent suicide; and

WHEREAS, following Uller's arrest, the City committed to responding to the horrific and heartbreaking allegations of abuse with transparency and accountability and to doing everything it could to prevent any future incidents of abuse in any City program providing services to youth; and

WHEREAS, the City retained Praesidium, Inc., an outside consultant with 25 years of experience in working with entities to prevent abuse, to review the policies and practices of its current youth programs and provide guidance to assist the City in improving its policies and practices to accord with best practices for preventing any future incidents of abuse; and

WHEREAS, beginning in January 2019, the City worked with Praesidium to conduct a review of its youth programs' policies and practices, with Praesidium reviewing written policies and procedures and Praesidium staff making two week-long trips to Santa Monica, in March 2019 and July 2019, during which they visited youth programs, observed their operations, interviewed staff members, participants, and parents, and reviewed program locations; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2019, Praesidium presented to the Council a summary of its review and a set of recommendations; and

WHEREAS, staff is implementing a number of these recommendations, including establishing a new administrative instruction that will create a cross-departmental child protection committee, establish a city-wide code of conduct and program standards that focus on prevention, implement standardized reporting and responding procedures for not only incidents of abuse but also red flag behaviors and youth to youth bullying and abuse, and require standardized training for all staff and volunteers focused on prevention; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Praesidium's recommendations, it is the desire of the City Council to confirm the City's commitment to implement procedures and practices to ensure lasting, City-wide efforts, in accordance with best practices, to prevent incidences of abuse of children in any City programs and to emphasize that everyone, no matter their role with the City, needs to understand that safety and the protection of children is part of their job;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Santa Monica does resolve as follows:

SECTION 1. The City shall put in place procedures and practices, including a city-wide code of conduct and program standards that focus on prevention, adopted in accordance with best practices, to prevent incidences of abuse of children in any City-managed programs providing services to youth. The City shall also put in place procedures and practices to ensure that these abuse prevention procedures and practices are reviewed and updated as necessary.

SECTION 2. The City shall put in place procedures and practices, adopted in accordance with best practices, for standardized reporting and response to allegations of abuse,

as well as to red flag behaviors and youth to youth abuse. The City shall also put in place procedures and practices to ensure that these reporting and response procedures and practices are reviewed and updated as necessary.

SECTION 3. The City manages, provides grant funds to support, and permits operation in City parks and facilities of programs that provide services to youth. It is an integral responsibility of everyone associated with any of these programs, whether a City employee, volunteer, contractor, grantee, or permittee, to take steps to prevent abuse and to ensure that children entrusted by their parents to participate in these programs are safe and protected.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

LANE DILG
City Attorney