

To: City Council From: City Manager and Sta

Council Meeting Date:

Jan 6, 2014

Agenda Item No: REP 2-14

Report on Volunteer Hours for FY13

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In fiscal year 2013, volunteers shared 43,023 hours of service with the City of Columbia. Through their time, volunteers enhance city programs and services and give citizens greater connection to municipal government. Based on the national value of an hour of service, \$22.14, these hours have a value of \$952,529.22.

DISCUSSION:

Volunteer Programs staff estimate that more than 6,000 residents volunteered and 931 new contacts were made with those interested in volunteering during FY13. Volunteer hours with the Special Olympics and Adapted Recreation programs in Parks & Recreation Department increased along with hours contributed by volunteers with the Columbia Police Department. Many of the City's ongoing volunteer activities continued with similar results as past years, including the Park Patrol, TreeKeepers, Cleanup Columbia, Adopt-A-Spot Beautification, and Adopt-A-Spot Litter Control. Volunteer hours are lower overall compared to FY12. Volunteer Programs staff will be working with staff in all City departments to discuss how volunteers can be included in City to a greater level in FY14.

Starting in FY14, the Public Works-Solid Waste Volunteer Program was merged with the City-wide volunteer program in Community Development-Neighborhood Service. The goal of this merger is to make volunteer management, including recruitment, placement and tracking, more efficient. Volunteer Programs staff are exploring a new software program that will improve the volunteering process for both residents and staff. A new program allowing volunteers to adopt rain gardens is planned for FY14 with a focus on the Providence Bikeway between Green Meadows and Southampton.

Volunteers of all types serve the City in roles ranging from episodic projects, that may be only a few hours in length, to long-term commitments where volunteers share time on a weekly basis over several years. The volunteer program includes residents of all ages and abilities including college students and those fulfilling community service obligations.

Boards and Commissions are also an important source of volunteer support for the City. Based on reports from staff who work with these groups, residents contributed 3,665 hours through board and commission service.

Much appreciation goes to the volunteers who have shared their time to make municipal government more effective and efficient. The work of volunteers extends the efforts of paid staff and allows for a greater connection to the City and fellow residents while learning new skills. City staff also deserve recognition as volunteers take time and effort to manage.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Volunteers extend the services provided by City government. Based on the national value of volunteer time, the value of our volunteer service is \$952,529.22.

VISION IMPACT:

http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionimpact.php

The City's volunteer program supports the overall vision statement that Columbia will be a "connected, informed, engaged community." The program also supports Strategy 12.1.4 in Parks, Recreation & Greenspace: Expand the program of volunteers to help support the parks.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Acceptance of this report; no action required.

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:									
City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply		Program Impact		Mandates					
City's current net FY cost	\$0.00	New Program/ Agency?	No	Federal or State mandated?	No				
Amount of funds already appropriated	\$0.00	Duplicates/Expands an existing program?	Yes	Vision Implementation impact					
Amount of budget amendment needed	\$0.00	Fiscal Impact on any local political subdivision?	No	Enter all that apply: Refer to Web site					
Estimated 2 year net costs:		Resources Required		Vision Impact?	Yes				
One Time	\$0.00	Requires add'l FTE Personne!?	No	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	Overall Vision				
Operating/ Ongoing	\$0.00	Requires add'l facilities?	No	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	12.1.4				
		Requires add'l capital equipment?	No	Fiscal year implementation Task #					

Volunteer Hours - 5 year trend by						
	% change from					
	previous year	FY13	FY12	FY11	FY10	FY09
Community Development	-3%	11,037	11,334	.12,153	11,808	12,447
Convention & Visitors Bureau	-63%	998	2,697	2,959	2,745	3,274
Cultural Affairs	-13%	233	269	354	245	272
Fire	-17%	2,499	3,008	1,745	1,971	2,196
Health	-6%	2,272	2,428	3,193	1,350	1,175
Parks & Recreation	-16%	15,151	18,006	13,319	16,019	17,350
Police	32%	1,634	1,234	2,523	1,738	2,481
Public Works	-18%	9,061	11,113	13,608	12,154	8,033
TOTAL	-14%	43,023	50,302	49,884	48,077	47,387