



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 21-057

Date: June 23, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

From: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

Re: Providing Lifelong Activities for Youth (PLAY) Afterschool Program Accreditation

In June 2015, our Parks and Recreation Department's after-school sites (Bass Park, Carter Park, Croissant Park, Lauderdale Manors Park, Osswald Park, Riverland Park, and Warfield Park), completed the necessary requirements to become a licensed after-school program facility/provider. In our attempts to continuously raise our standards, we have been awarded Accreditation by the Florida Association of Child Care Management (FACCM) and received the Gold Seal Quality Care designation by the Florida Department of Children and Families Office of Child Care Regulation.

This process began with a self-study that included hundreds of hours addressing individual standards and indicators that applies to our program. Throughout the course of the past couple years, the governing agencies took an in-depth view of our recreation centers, how we facilitate learning, playtime, how staff interacts with children, and a variety of other indicators to evaluate our program.

Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment (APPLE) is the number one childcare accrediting body in the State of Florida. We are the first and currently only municipality in South Florida to earn this endorsement. Achieving this accreditation shows that our PLAY, afterschool programs, daily procedures, processes and operations, are exceptional.

For further information, please contact Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, at pthornburg@fortlauderdale.gov.

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