

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 10, 2022
TO: City Council
FROM: Carrie Dyer, City Manager's Office, Management Analyst
SUBJECT: Ratification of 2022 Annual Golden Heart Award Selection

Recommendation

Per City Council policy, ratify the recommendations from the selection committee for the recipients of the 2022 Golden Heart Awards. The award ceremony will be held prior to the City Council meeting on May 24, 2022.

Fiscal Impact

Costs including staff time, materials and items for the reception are included in the 2021-2022 budget.

Background and Analysis

In memory of the death of Andrew Mockus, who was tragically killed by his peers in 1992, the City of Davis Recreation and Park Commission expanded its commitment to the youth of the Davis community. Public forums were held to discuss various issues and to brainstorm on how the community could do more to meet the needs of the teens in Davis.

After careful consideration, the Commission suggested the City Council adopt several recommendations. One of the Commission recommendations was to develop an annual Golden Heart Award as a way to recognize outstanding youth in the community, especially those students who aren't typically recognized in other forums. There are two different categories within the award: the service award and the personal challenge award. The service award recognizes individuals who have given significant service to an expressed need in the community, to their peers, and/or to their school. The personal challenge award recognizes individuals who have overcome a significant challenge in their life.

These awards are presented annually at the City Council meeting.

The selection committee spent considerable time reviewing the nominations and were greatly impressed by the nominations. The committee consisted of:

- Rick LeFlore, Recreation and Park Commissioner
- Joan Saltee, former Recreation and Park Commissioner and former School Board Member
- Kate Snow, Davis Joint Unified School District Climate Coordinator

- Robert Larson, City of Davis Recreation Coordinator

After consideration, it is recommended that the following recipients be awarded the Golden Heart Award for 2022.

Community Service:

- Rohan Baxi, 10th grader at DaVinci Charter Academy, for his volunteer work for Team Davis and creative thinking during the pandemic for keeping Team Davis athletes engaged.
- Yanni Lowry, 12th grader at DaVinci High School, for the tremendous amount of community activism and volunteer work, including founding the local Black Student Union, organizing food drives and distribution and providing entertainment for convalescent home residents.

Personal Challenge:

- Erin McAllister, 9th grader at Holmes Junior High, for navigating through a deep personal loss and using that to lift others through her work as a counselor at Camp Kesem, being a Holmes Student Advocate and her genuine kindness and caring of all those around her.

The ceremony and reception for the Golden Heart Awards recipients will be held on Tuesday, May 24, prior to the City Council meeting. The recipients of the award will be recognized publicly for their achievements and presented with a certificate.