



**Legislative Department
Seattle City Council
Memorandum**

Date: April 15, 2013

To: Parks and Neighborhoods Committee

From: Ben Noble, Central Staff

Subject: **DPR's New Youth Employment Program**

At the April 18th meeting of the Parks and Neighborhoods Committee you will likely be taking action on Council Bill 117761, which would lift a proviso on roughly \$180,000 in the 2013 budget for the of Parks and Recreation (DPR). These funds had been set aside awaiting a proposal from DPR for structured programming for teens. As discussed at the Committee's last meeting, DPR has proposed to allocate the funding to a new youth employment program. Central Staff has had the opportunity to meet with DPR staff about the program and we think it offers a promising approach to addressing the problem of youth unemployment. Further, we have found DPR very open to developing a clear and transparent approach to tracking the program's performance. We are looking forward to working with DPR staff in refining this approach over the coming weeks and months. Thus, we recommend passage of the Council Bill.

As further context, you should know that Councilmember Harrell's Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology Committee will likely be considering legislation at their April 17th meeting to provide an additional \$210,000 of funding for this same program. As proposed by DPR, the available funding would be sufficient to serve 150 teens in 2013 and 110 teens in 2014. The additional \$210,000 funding will bring these totals to 200 teens in both 2013 and 2014.

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