

Memo

To: Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager

From: Jessica Legette, Parks, Recreation, and Maintenance Assistant Director

Thru: Michael Gibson, Parks, Recreation, and Maintenance Director

Date: October 6, 2025

Re: City Council Agenda Item Request: Massey Hill Rec Afterschool Programming

Recreation staff have compiled requested research regarding afterschool programs at the Massey Hill Recreation Center to positively impact students at Howard Learning Academy.

After discussion with administration at Howard Learning Academy, staff have the following information to share:

- Dr. Zoletta Taylor, Principal of Howard Learning Academy (HLA) indicated the school currently has 10 students enrolled for the 2025-2026 year; the student body is comprised of grades 6 through 8
- Enrollment is dependent on student assignment to the school and will change
- Dr. Taylor shared that 99% of HLA students rely on transportation provided by Cumberland County Schools (CCS), and expressed concern that if an afterschool program were initiated, students would be left with no transportation home
- HLA student body is typically made up of students from outside the Massey Hill community, and current school hours are 7:30 AM to 2:40 PM
- Dr. Taylor requested an introduction to pickle ball for HLA students; Recreation staff are now working to coordinate this and provide instruction

Staff reached out to South Salt Lake City (SSLC), as their “City on the Move” was referenced in the Agenda Item Request, with regard to juvenile crime rate reduction. Items of note:

- SSLC is home to “Promise South Salt Lake”, a unique city department providing dynamic youth, family, and community programming at no cost
- Promise programming includes youth afterschool and summer programs, adult education programs, community resource navigation and referral services
- SSLC staff indicated the city has a large refugee population, while not an official city of refuge

- In the early 2000's, SSLC experienced a significant tragedy with a young member of their refugee community that led to their Police and Fire departments recognizing the need for unique services to serve their population
- Promise initially began with afterschool programming and evolved into programming for adults that was impactful to the refugee community (ESL, Citizenship, and Drivers Ed)
- The program began in one location and has expanded to a total of 14 to date
- SSLC's Promise program is funded primarily by grant and donation dollars, with only 14% of the department budget being funded with the city's general fund
- Since the inception of Promise in 2012, SSLC has tracked an 85% decrease in juvenile arrests, seen school performance rise in both literacy and math, and has seen an increase in graduation rates for the refugee community