

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 13, 2025

TO: City Council

FROM: Kellie Vitaich, Parks and Community Services, Community Services Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: Ratification of 2025 Annual Golden Heart Award Selection

Recommendation

Per City Council policy, ratify the recommendations from the selection committee for the recipients of the 2025 Golden Heart Awards. The award ceremony will be held prior to the City Council meeting on May 20, 2025.

Fiscal Impact

Costs including staff time, materials and items for the reception are included in the 2024-2025 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:

- David Siegel, Recreation and Park Commissioner
- Joan Sallee, former Recreation and Park Commissioner and former School Board Member

- Micayla Valceschini, City of Davis Recreation Coordinator

The selection committee recommends that the following recipients be awarded the Golden Heart Award for 2025.

Community Service:

- Jonah Spang, 11th Grader at Davis High School, for impactful involvement in local government, food insecurity initiatives, and environmental efforts, including significant contributions to the Yolo County Youth Commission and over 50 volunteer hours at the food bank.

Personal Challenge:

- Camila Pastor, 12th Grader at Da Vinci Charter Academy, for her inspiring resilience and unwavering commitment to connect and contribute to her community, even while navigating incredibly challenging personal circumstances.

The ceremony and reception for the Golden Heart Awards recipients will be held on Tuesday, May 20, prior to the City Council meeting. The recipients of the award will be recognized publicly for their achievements and presented with a certificate. Their names will be engraved on the perpetual plaque in the City Council Chambers hallway.