



STAFF REPORT TO COMMUNITY AND LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION (CLSC)

TO: Chair and Members of the CLSC Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Christopher Roke, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING DATE: January 12, 2026

TOPIC: Herculean Mile Award update

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Community and Library Services Commission receive an update Herculean Mile recognition program and present awards to the winners for the 2025 calendar year. There is no action required from this item.

BACKGROUND:

In October of 2023, the Hercules City Council approved a new recognition program named the Herculean Mile award. The concept of the award is to celebrate individuals that have consistently gone above and beyond to make Hercules a better place. The goal is to recognize the many outstanding efforts made by community members.

The Herculean Mile award has (2) two categories: one that recognizes community members/business owners, and the other that recognizes city employees. To recognize these Herculean awardees, a set of guidelines were created, a link was set up on the City of Hercules website, and nominations for deserving community members/business owners and employees were established.

The frequency of award winners was determined to be (3) three times per year, coinciding with the (3) three seasonal activities guides produced by the Parks and Recreation Department. Each season the designated committee members will select (1) community member/business owner, and (1) one employee, as the winner of the Herculean Mile for that season. At the end of the calendar year, these award winners will be recognized in front of Council during the December Council meeting.

Tonight we recognize the 6 Herculean Mile winners from the 2025 calendar year that include:

Community Members or Business Owners:

- Arleen Wong (Summer 2025)
- Jamela Smith-Folds (Fall 2025) and
- Joanne Sanchez (Winter/Spring 2026); and

Employees:

- Karin Nestor – Parks and Recreation (Summer 2025)
- Rosalind “Rose” Fernando Contreras – Parks and Recreation (Fall 2025) and

- Faye Flores – Information Technology (Winter/Spring 2026)

The Herculean Mile program gives the city leaders, staff, members of the community, and business owners an opportunity to nominate potential recipients that have proven to be an integral part of the success of Hercules.

In addition to all of the hardworking dedicated employees, the City of Hercules has benefited from the many partnerships with the 14 City Recognized Nonprofit Groups, the group of dedicated volunteers at PD and the Senior Center, those giving their time in the Adopt a Park program, and those who volunteer in the Team up to Clean up program. There are countless other members of the community that have substantially contributed to the City of Hercules, and this is a great way to recognize some of these community members in Hercules.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is minimal fiscal impact in creating this award. However, the pride, honor and good will gained will have a lasting impact on the award winners. Staff designed an award for the recipients that is sure to have an impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

