



Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

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Date: December 13, 2007

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Mayor Mallory Announces Rec Centers to Provide Snacks Expands on efforts to improve youth nutrition

College Hill – Mayor Mark Mallory and Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) Director Norman Merrifield announced that City Recreation Centers have begun providing snacks for youth. The after-school program began in September and offers healthy snacks for free to students ages 5-18 at 23 recreation centers. The Mayor and Director Merrifield were joined by Charlie Kozlesky, Vice President of School and School Nutrition at Children's Hunger Alliance, a statewide non-profit dedicated to improving childhood nutrition. The announcement was made at the College Hill Recreation Center.

"We are always looking for ways to connect more youth to healthy and nutritious food," Mayor Mallory said. "The new snack program is one more positive aspect about our City Rec Centers. They are a great way to ensure that youth have access to positive activities all day long."

Mayor Mallory has made fighting childhood hunger a key priority for his administration. The after-school snack program is another initiative to raise awareness and access to child nutrition. Since induction of the After School Snack program, City recreation centers have served 1,300 youth. Many recreation centers saw attendance numbers increase for other activities. The College Hill Recreation Center saw attendance of 40 youth in August jump to 120 in October of this year. The city is reimbursed for the snack program by the US Department of Agriculture.

"The Cincinnati Recreation Commission is committed to the Health & Wellness needs of every Cincinnati neighborhood," said CRC Recreation Director Norman Merrifield. "The increase in numbers of children served since the program's implementation demonstrates the effectiveness of this program in our centers. This program allows CRC to reach residents who have previously not used our neighborhood recreation centers and provide them with the opportunity to witness all of the programs available to them."

Charlie Kozlesky of Children's Hunger Alliance praised the Mayor and CRC's efforts to support child nutrition. He presented Mayor Mallory and Director Merrifield with a check for \$2,000 from the Children's Hunger Alliance to support the CATCH PE physical fitness program.

"Children's Hunger Alliance is extremely pleased with the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's ability to provide snacks to over 2,500 children daily," Kozlesky. "In collaboration with the mayor efforts, this program helps to provide a safe location for all children to receive nutritious meals and physical activity."

The Mayor also announced the results of the Summer Breakfast and Lunch program that was administered by Cincinnati Public Schools. This summer, Cincinnati Recreation Centers served 4,462 breakfast meals and 76,096 lunch meals to youth in Cincinnati. The Mayor has worked for the last two years to increase the number of meals serving through the summer food program by increasing the number of sites to provide free meals, and the number of youth served at the sites.

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