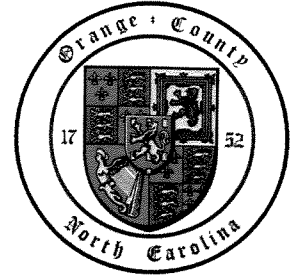


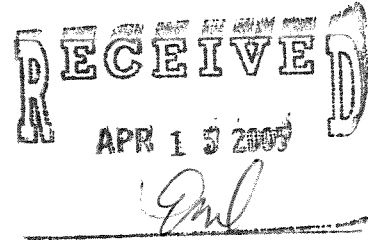
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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
POST OFFICE BOX 8181
200 SOUTH CAMERON STREET
HILLSBOROUGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27278



April 11, 2005

Kevin C. Foy, Mayor
Town of Chapel Hill
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516



Dear Kevin,

I am responding to your letter dated March 16th in which you state a request from the Chapel Hill Town Council that the County consider providing an additional \$16,000 to increase the Orange County-Chapel Hill Special Olympics Recreation Specialist's position to full-time status.

The Board of Commissioners and I think highly of this athletic-based program that helps build the confidence and mobility of residents with intellectual disabilities, and certainly appreciate the role the Town plays in offering community-based recreation opportunities for those with multiple and severe challenges. Indeed such programs are often social lifelines for some of the most vulnerable in our society.

I have recently become aware that there have been previous discussions at a staff level, maybe a year ago, among the Towns and the County about how the need perceived for additional "person power" could be addressed without any additional financial commitment from government. I understand that Lori Taft, Orange County Recreation and Parks Director, agreed to make available a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist from her staff to provide additional support and assistance to the program – something the County is still willing and ready to do. The Carrboro Director, I am told, also recommended one of her staff with training in Special Populations to help meet identified workload issues.

As I know you would agree, tight budget times call upon us to think more creatively and work together more collaboratively for solutions to common concerns. I suggest we encourage our staff to re-engage in discussion along the lines of what began earlier, and see how they might be able to move forward based on sharing their time and talents within existing resources, prior to considering this item for county funding.

Sincerely,

Moses Carey, Jr.
Chair, Board of Commissioners

CC: Board of County Commissioners
John Link, County Manager

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