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PRESS RELEASE

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City awarded \$663,000 grant to expand community garden program

Mayor Cedric Glover on Monday, June 2, will officially announce SPAR and LSU AgCenter have been awarded a \$663,000 to expand community garden-based nutrition education programming at three additional recreation centers.

The mayor will address the media at 9:30 a.m. at the Valencia Park Community Center, 1800 Viking Drive. The grant, which will be spread over five years, is funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The Valencia Park Community Garden Program is the model that will be used to create gardens at A.B. Palmer Community Center, David Raines Community Center and Hollywood Heights Community Center. The city also had a community garden established at Bill Cockrell Community Center.

Shalon Lewis, center manager at Valencia, will serve as the Community Site Program Coordinator.

“This is very exciting for all of us but I’m especially happy for the kids who will get to participate in these programs in more parts of the city,” said SPAR Director Shelly Ragle. “The impact these gardens have on our young people is so positive and educational, so I can’t wait to literally see this program just grow and grow.”

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