



City Council Report

Date: April 6, 2015
To: City Council
Through: Christopher J. Brady, City Manager
From: Scott J. Butler, Assistant to the City Manager, Government Relations
Subject: Resolution of Support for a grant application from Mesa Public Schools Native American Education Program to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for \$102,786 to support improved student academic performance, and approving the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-through grant.

Strategic Initiative:



Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Mesa Public Schools Native American Education Program's application to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$65,000 to improve the academic performance of targeted students at Salk Elementary, and \$37,786 to improve the academic performance of targeted students at Fremont Junior and Red Mountain High Schools. The Council Resolution supports this effort to secure the grant and commits the City to receive it on behalf of Mesa Public Schools and pass it through in its entirety to them if awarded. Staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

Background

Mesa Public Schools serves 606 students in Reading and Math labs at Salk Elementary, including those from Fort McDowell. Additionally, 58 Native American students will be served at other Junior High Schools, including Fremont Junior High. These efforts have received grant support from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for the past 12 years.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Mesa Public Schools Native American Education Program to file their application by May 1, 2015 and be considered for funding from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned over \$9 million to our community since its passage in 2002 from surrounding tribal governments.

Alternatives

The only alternative to adopting this resolution would be to not adopt. Such an action would deny Mesa sponsorships for this request and require Mesa Public Schools to seek an alternate local government for access to this funding source.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact on the City of Mesa, should this grant be awarded for Mesa Public Schools, will be negligible except overhead expenses in accounting to accept and reissue the grant check. The City does not administer the grant and signs an MOU or IGA with the tribe to limit our liability to only the pass-through transaction.