



# City Council Report

**Date:** April 15, 2019  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Christopher J. Brady, City Manager  
**From:** Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager, Government Relations  
**Subject:** Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Gene Lewis Boxing Club to the Ak-Chin Indian Community in the amount of \$55,000 for their "Building Hope Together" after-school program and authorizing the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-through grant.

## Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Gene Lewis Boxing Club's application to Ak-Chin Indian Community for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$55,000 in funding for their "Building Hope Together" after-school program. A Council Resolution supports this effort to secure a grant and commits the city to receive it on behalf of the non-profit and pass it through in its entirety to them if awarded. As these programs serve the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

## Background

Gene Lewis Boxing Club is a local nonprofit agency that provides programs and services for lower-income and under-served students in Mesa and surrounding communities. The "Every Child a Champion" program is a free after-school program offering classes to develop the intellect, attitudes, fitness and self-esteem.

This program impacts Mesa youth by offering free academic tutoring, S.T.E.M. training, nutrition and meal planning, college application assistance, physical fitness, anti-bullying instruction and championship amateur boxing. This program impacts students through exposure to a rigorous and disciplined but positive environment, which has proven to increase graduation rates and post-high school employment. The program will serve over 300 students and their families in 2019.

## Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Gene Lewis Boxing Club to file their application by and be considered for funding from Ak-Chin Indian Community. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned over \$1 billion to Arizona communities since its passage in 2002 from four surrounding tribal governments.

## **Alternatives**

The only alternative to adopting this resolution would be to not adopt. Such an action would deny Mesa sponsorship for this request and require Gene Lewis Boxing Club 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 Gene Lewis Boxing Club, 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 each tribe to limit our liability to only the pass-through transaction.