



City Council Report

Date: May 19, 2025
To: City Council
Through: Scott J. Butler, Assistant City Manager
From: Sharon Skinner, Grants Coordinator
Subject: Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application Gene Lewis Boxing Club and Youth Center to the Tohono O'odham Nation in the amount of \$10,000.00 for their "Prepare to Take-Off!" after-school program and approving the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-thru grant.

Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Gene Lewis Boxing Club and Youth Center application to Tohono O'odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$10,000.00 in funding for their "Prepare to Take-Off!" 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 and Youth Center is a local nonprofit agency whose purpose is to promote decency and prevent delinquency through services geared to providing behavioral guidance and the promotion of health, social, educational, vocational and character development of boys and girls.

The "Prepare to Take-Off!" program is a free after-school program operating daily and developing the character, intellect, attitudes, psychological wellness and self-esteem of lower-income and under-served students. This program impacts Mesa youth by offering free academic tutoring, S.T.E.M. training, nutrition and meal planning, college application assistance, physical fitness, stress management information and championship amateur boxing.

If awarded, the funding will support programming to serve over 300 students and their families.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for the organization to file their application by the funder's deadline and be considered for funding. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned over \$1 billion to Arizona communities 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 sponsorship for this request and require the organization 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, 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.