



City Council Report

Date: May 21, 2018
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 Valley of the Sun YMCA to the Tohono O’odham Nation in the amount of \$20,000 for their Safety Around Water and Swim Lesson Financial Assistance 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 Valley of the Sun YMCA’s application to Tohono O’odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$20,000 for their Safety Around Water and Swim Lesson Financial Assistance 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

The Phoenix area has one of the highest child drowning rates in the country. For the 290,000 children living in poverty here, this rate is even higher. The Valley of the Sun YMCA has been a long-time leader in water safety, launching our state’s first learn-to-swim campaign in 1906. With fourteen aquatic facilities in the Phoenix area and national best-practices curricula, Valley of the Sun YMCA continues to be the area’s premier water safety expert—teaching over 9,000 children to swim each year.

The Mesa Fire and Medical Department reported 28 water-related incidents and nine fatalities in 2017—the highest number since 2000. This investment would enable Valley of the Sun YMCA to reach approximately 333 vulnerable Mesa youth (ages 18 and under), provide them with water safety instruction, and significantly reduce their risk of a water-related incident.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation

for Valley of the Sun YMCA to file their application by June 1, 2018 and be considered for funding from Tohono O'odham Nation. 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 Valley of the Sun YMCA 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 Valley of the Sun YMCA , 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.