



City Council Report

Date: May 20, 2013
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 by the City of Mesa, Public Information and Communications Department to the Gila River Indian Community for \$10,000 to support the Celebration of Freedom.

Strategic Initiative:



Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for City of Mesa Public Information and Communications Department's application to the Gila River Indian Community for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$10,000 in support for the Celebration of Freedom event next year. The Council Resolution supports this effort to secure the grant and authorizes the City Manager to enter into a grant agreement if awarded. Staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

Background

The requested grant will support Mesa Public Information and Communications Department in their efforts to collaborate with other community partners in producing the annual "Celebration of Freedom" the weekend before the 4th of July, 2013. Funding from the grant would provide public education features within the event to highlight Native American cultures in Arizona and their contribution to our freedom. Specifically this grant would add informational displays, interactive presentations and information about Code Talkers and Native Americans in the Military. In addition, cultural demonstration, music and dance, and recognition of these cultures in marketing material, event banners and on the event logo will be added.

Since July 2010 the City of Mesa has been transformed into the award-winning Arizona Celebration of Freedom, one of the state's most unique, exciting and successful community and educational festivals. Tens of thousands of people attend enjoying

activities celebrating our nation's founding. In the first year alone, more than 50,000 people ventured downtown.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for City of Mesa Public Information and Communications Department to file their application by June 7, 2013 and be considered for funding from the Gila River Indian Community. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned over \$9 million to our community since its passage in 2002 from five surrounding tribal governments.

Alternatives

The only alternative to adopting this resolution would be to not adopt. Such an action would deny the City's Public Information and Communications Department access to this funding source and necessitate removing the Native American participation in the event.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact on the City of Mesa, should this grant eventually be awarded for the City's Public Information and Communications Department will be negligible except overhead expenses in accounting to manage the grant funding.