



# 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 Whisper n Thunder to the Gila River Indian Community for \$120,000 over three years to support programming and education.

**Strategic Initiative:**



## Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Whisper n Thunder, Inc.'s application to the Gila River Indian Community for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$120,000 over a three year period for programs to provide Native American education scholarships, a yearly symposium, honorariums for Native American writers and a leadership program for Native American women. The Council Resolution supports this effort to secure the grant and commits the City to receive it on behalf of Whisper n Thunder and pass it through in its entirety to them if awarded. Staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

## Background

The requested grant will support Whisper and Thunder, Inc. programs that serve the 2.4% Native American population in our area offering them support through education, sharing their stories, and Symposium in-put. The outcomes will be opportunities for better jobs and economic development to Native families and Tribal communities in close proximity to our city.

## Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Whisper n Thunder, Inc. 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 Mesa sponsorships for this request and require Whisper n Thunder, Inc. seek an alternate local government for access to this funding source.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact on the City of Mesa, should this grant eventually be awarded for Whisper n Thunder, Inc. 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 agreement with each tribe to limit our liability to only the pass through transaction.