



# City Council Report

**Date:** May 20, 2024  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Candace Cannistraro, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Andrea Moore, Director  
Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Department  
**Subject:** Intergovernmental Agreements with Mesa Unified School District for the joint use of facilities, general cooperation, and adaptive programming Citywide

## **Purpose and Recommendation**

The purpose of this request is to seek Council approval for the City Manager to enter into two Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA), with Mesa Unified School District (District). One agreement shall be for the shared use of City and District facilities and general cooperation. The other agreement shall be for the City and District to work cooperatively to provide adaptive recreation opportunities.

## **Background**

The City of Mesa and the Mesa Unified School District have a long and rich history of working together to provide facilities and programming for the City of Mesa. A 1986 agreement set the foundation for the City's aquatics facilities to be built on the District's campuses to provide support for school-based and community-based programming. In this aquatics agreement, the District covered utility expenses for the pools throughout the year and the City provided facility construction, maintenance, and programming.

A 2003 IGA established parameters around the shared use by both parties of City and District facilities. The 2003 IGA was updated in 2017 to reflect updates in field and facility programming protocols. These agreements established fee structures at rates reflective of serving many of the same constituents. Through this timeframe, the City and the District also began working cooperatively, but without a written agreement, to establish programming for individuals experiencing physical and cognitive challenges both during school time and throughout the rest of the year.

## **Discussion**

Funding sources have changed during the almost 30 years of cooperation between the City and the District. The District does not have access to funding to support non-school facility uses. However, both parties continue to serve overlapping constituents and do not want to impose fees beyond what is needed to cover direct costs.

The need to update the cooperative agreements between the parties became apparent during the development of the 2022 PRCF Comprehensive Master Plan. The parties began meeting in 2023 to outline the changes needed.

This new IGA for facility use and general cooperation stipulates that:

- City takes over all utility accounts for pool locations;
- District takes over all utility accounts for ballfield lights;
- District fees to the City for high school AIA aquatics sports will be stepped over five years with the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 fee at \$1 million tapering by year five in Fiscal Year 2029-2030 to \$230,000;
- Both parties establish a fee structure to capture the other parties' use of facilities, including all other use of the pools, at cost, and;
- Booking policies and promotion strategies will be available cooperatively.

The new IGA for cooperative adaptive recreation opportunities stipulates that:

- City use of District facilities shall occur at no charge to the City when the majority of participants are enrolled in the District's schools or at a pro-rated rate when City participants are not District students;
- Cross-promotion will occur for adaptive programming, and;
- District guidelines for covering adaptive programming costs for District students.

### **Alternatives**

Take no action and continue to use the previously agreed upon 2017 IGA. This will result in additional discussions with Mesa Public Schools to outline changes needed for cooperative facility use and adaptive recreation programming.

### **Fiscal Impact**

A 2022 analysis of utilities paid for aquatics facilities by Mesa Public Schools totaled \$1.2 million. The estimated cost for utilities during high school AIA aquatics sports was \$230,000. There is a five-year tapering of the City covering utilities costs with the District paying the City \$1 million in year one, and graduating to \$230,000 paid by the District by year five. These fees cover high school AIA aquatics sports.

All other District uses of City facilities, including uses beyond AIA aquatics sports, will be charged the City resident rate, less 20%, to only cover direct City expenses.

The District fee structure to the City for District facilities will be based on direct utility and support functions of the City use.

The exception to these fees for both parties is the cooperative programming for adaptive recreation opportunities in which both parties will cover their own expenses without charging the partner.

### **Coordinated With**

The Mesa Unified School District Governing Board approved the IGAs at their April 23, 2024 and May 14, 2024 meetings.