



City Council Report

Date: May 1, 2014
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 from AGUILA Youth Leadership Institute, Inc. to the Gila River Indian Community for \$300,000 over three years to expand college preparation services to students in the East Valley.

Strategic Initiative:



Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for AGUILA Youth Leadership Institute's application to the Gila River Indian Community for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$300,000 over three years in program funding to expand college preparation services to students who reside in the East Valley. The Council Resolution supports this effort to secure the grant and commits the City to receive it on behalf of AGUILA, 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 AGUILA's efforts to expand college preparation services to students who reside in the East Valley. AGUILA is a community-based, nonprofit college access program that prepares Arizona youth for postsecondary and career success by emphasizing cultural understanding as a guide to personal, academic, and professional excellence. In ten years of operation, AGUILA has provided nearly 800 students with access and support. During that time, AGUILA has witnessed an increase in participation by East Valley students, most notably youths from Mesa. This funding would allow the organization to provide programming specifically to East Valley students and families.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for AGUILA to file their application by June 6, 2014 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 sponsorship for this request and require AGUILA 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 eventually be awarded for AGUILA 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 with each tribe to limit our liability to only the pass-through transaction.