



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 Library to the Tohono O’odham Nation for \$13,940 to support STEM components to be used at Red Mountain Library THINKspot and other library locations.

Strategic Initiative:



Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for City of Mesa Public Library’s application to the Tohono O’odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$13,940 in support for robotics kits to be used at their THINKspot space in the Red Mountain Library branch and to other library branches to introduce STEM concepts and hands on learning for younger learners (Primary and middle school grades). 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 Library in their expansion of programs at the THINKspot space within Red Mountain Library and to travel to other libraries. Building robotic 'maker' kits will be purchased to be used at THINKspot at Red Mountain Library and at other library branches. These kits are aimed at younger learners and students (primary and middle school grades) and introduce STEM concepts and hands-on learning opportunities for students in Mesa with a goal toward strengthening their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. Robotics kits will help prepare students to be competitive in technology occupations that are in demand. The request includes staff training, licensing, and equipment.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for City of Mesa Public Library to file their application by June 14, 2013 and be considered for funding from the Tohono O'odham Nation. 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 Library access to this funding source.

Fiscal Impact

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