



City Council Report

Date: April 19, 2021
To: City Council
Through: Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager, Government Relations
From: Sharon Skinner, Grants Coordinator
Subject: Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Gene Lewis Boxing Club and Youth Center to the Ak-Chin Indian Community in the amount of \$17,500 for their "Today's the Day" after-school program and approving the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-through grant.

Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Gene Lewis Boxing Club and Youth Center application to Ak-Chin Indian Community for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$17,500 in funding for their "Today's the Day" after-school program. A Council Resolution supports this effort to secure a grant and commits the city to receive it on behalf of the non-profit and pass it through in its entirety to them if awarded. As these programs serve the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

Background

Gene Lewis Boxing Club and Youth Center is a local nonprofit agency whose purpose is to promote decency and prevent delinquency through services geared to providing behavioral guidance and the promotion of health, social, educational, vocational and character development of boys and girls.

The "**Today is the Day**" program is a free after-school program operating daily and developing the character, intellect, attitudes, psychological wellness and self-esteem of lower-income and under-served students. This program impacts Mesa youth by offering free academic tutoring, S.T.E.M. training, nutrition and meal planning, college application assistance, physical fitness, stress management information and championship amateur boxing. The program impacts students through exposure to a rigorous and disciplined but positive environment which has proven to increase graduation rates and post-high school employment. The high school graduation rate for participants is 20% higher than the City of Mesa average.

The program will serve over 300 students and their families.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Gene Lewis Boxing Club and Youth Center to file their application by the funder's deadline and be considered for funding from Ak-Chin Indian Community. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned over \$1 billion to Arizona communities since its passage in 2002 from four 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 Gene Lewis Boxing Club and Youth Center 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 be awarded Gene Lewis Boxing Club and Youth Center, 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 or IGA with each tribe to limit our liability to only the pass-through transaction.