

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 22, 2024

PREPARED BY: Daniel Hurtado, Public Safety Analyst

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED AGENTS FOR APPLYING FOR THE YOUTH COMMUNITY ACCESS GRANT

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, AND CITY TREASURER AS AUTHORIZED AGENTS APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE YOUTH COMMUNITY ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM."

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On November 8, 2016, California voters approved the Control, Regulate, and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Proposition 64), which legalized recreational cannabis use for adults over 21 and imposed new excise taxes on its cultivation and retail sales. Proposition 64 established the Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account (YEPEITA), into which 60% of the tax revenue from marijuana sales is deposited by the State Controller. These funds are designated for youth programs that focus on education about substance use disorders, prevention, early intervention, and the provision of timely treatment services for youth, their families, and caregivers.

YEPEITA funds allocated to the California Natural Resources Agency (the State) are intended for competitive grants aimed at enhancing youth access to natural and cultural resources, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities. These grants can cover a range of initiatives, including community education and recreational facilities, designed to promote substance use prevention and early intervention among youth. To fulfill this objective, the State established the Youth Community Access Grant Program. This program provides competitive grants to communities disproportionately impacted by historical federal and state drug policies, commonly referred to as the "War on Drugs," as well as other underserved areas.

The purpose of this funding is to cover the costs of the YMCA Nature Play Project, aimed at transforming the outdoor learning environment at the Jean Benson Early Childhood Education Center, located within the Desert Rose affordable housing development in Palm Desert.

The current space would be enhanced with natural materials that support curriculum promoting active learning across various developmental domains, including social, gross motor, sensory integration skills, and dual language learning. Use of natural materials and plants native to the desert, which are sustainable in our unique climate, will provide a rich context for daily exploration and endless learning opportunities for the children in attendance. Utilizing the environment as the "third teacher" is fundamental to early care and education, as it fosters a love for the earth, nature, and lifelong learning in our youngest residents.

The California Natural Resources Agency's procedures requires a resolution from the applicant's governing board, certifying approval of the application, to be obtained before submission. The City of Palm Desert will act as the lead applicant in partnership with The Family YMCA.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact associated with this action. Designating authorized agents could have a favorable financial impact by enabling the City to pursue and secure funding opportunities.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Draft Resolution