



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 16, 2024

DATE: March 25, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Sally Johnston, Program Assistant, Office of the County Manager, (775) 737-1855, sjohnston@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Eric Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$35,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$35,000.00] grant to Sierra Nevada Journeys – a nonprofit organization, created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – for the purpose of supporting the STEM education of 700 children; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds. (Commission District 3.)

SUMMARY

This item requests the Board to approve resolutions and disburse district funds in the total amount of [\$35,000.00] for Commission District 3.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:

1. Economic Impacts: Meet the Needs of Our Growing Community, Support a Thriving Community
2. Innovative Services: Strengthening Our Culture of Service

PREVIOUS ACTION

On March 26, 2024, the Board of County directed a [\$5,000.00] grant to Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance (TMBA) – a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – for the purpose of covering costs associated with the 2nd Annual Ride Reno/Cycle Sparks event.

On November 28, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners directed a [\$5,000.00] grant to Glenn Duncan STEM Academy – a government entity – toward commissioning a physical education teacher, purchasing of athletic equipment, commissioning an artist for a new mural and retouching an existing mural, supporting the students and families with counseling, and purchasing social-emotional classroom materials; and a [\$5,000.00] grant

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to Options Veterinary Care – a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – which provides quality, affordable, and accessible spay/neuter services and veterinary care options for pets; and a [\$5,000.00] grant to Urban Roots – a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – to support the Gardening for All initiative.

On September 19, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners directed a [\$5,000.00] grant to Be the Change Project – a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – to work with artists and kids to make murals and sculptures providing art to the community; a [\$5,000.00] grant to Nevada Museum of Art – a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – to support the new Education and Research Center; a [\$5,000.00] grant to Domestic Violence Resource Center – a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – to support its emergency shelter and transitional housing residents.

On August 15, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners directed a [\$5,000.00] grant to Noah’s Animal House – a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – to support the organization’s mission to provide on-site pet shelter and care for victims of domestic violence.

BACKGROUND

Modification of guidelines and adoption of resolution for County Commission District Special Funding on February 10, 2015, created Commission District Special Funds for each Commission District. On May 16, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners approved the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget with special district funds allocated per Commission District in the amount of \$100,000.00. The monies appropriated are to support needs for all Washoe County residents.

Funds appropriated through the Commission District Special Funds must provide substantial benefit to the inhabitants of the County. The recipient must be a nonprofit organization, created for religious, charitable, or educational purposes, or a government entity. Funds shall not provide any personal or private benefit for the Commissioners, directly or indirectly benefit any campaign efforts by a commissioner, violate Ethics in Government law, or be used to purchase tickets to special events.

Commissioner Garcia has elected to support the following organization in fiscal year 2023-2024:

- [\$35,000.00] grant to Sierra Nevada Journeys – a nonprofit organization, created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – for the purpose of supporting the STEM education of 700 children. Sierra Nevada Journeys is the premier outdoor science education nonprofit serving Northern Nevada and California.

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient FY23-24 budget authority exists within the Cost Center District 3 Constituents (C100103) and account Payments to other Agencies (710400). This action requests approval and distribution of a [total of \$35,000.00] to:

Expense Disbursements are required as follows:

- Sierra Nevada Journeys: \$35,000.00

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$35,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; District Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$35,000.00] grant to Sierra Nevada Journeys – a nonprofit organization, created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – for the purpose of supporting the STEM education of 700 children; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds. (Commission District 3).

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“Move to approve the recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$35,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; District Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$35,000.00] grant to Sierra Nevada Journeys – a nonprofit organization, created for religious, charitable or educational purposes – for the purpose of supporting the STEM education of 700 children; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds.”*