



**STAFF REPORT**  
**3/25/2020**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Celina Jimenez, Grants Manager

**SUBJECT:** Authorize Sponsorship Support to the Riverside County Fire Explorer Program at Station 79 Coachella Post in the Amount of \$2,500

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council consider authorizing sponsorship support to the Riverside County Fire Explorer Program at Station 79 Coachella Post in the amount of \$2,500 to help offset operating costs associated with running the program.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Riverside County Fire Department Fire Explorer Program is a youth program organized through 'Learning for Life'. The program is designed to allow male and female youth, between the ages of 14 and 20, to explore a career in the fire service. The explorers receive training similar to volunteer and professional firefighters, including basic fire chemistry, hose evolutions, ladder operations, medical and CPR training, hazardous materials, and auto extrication. The training program is intense and demanding, however the rewards are increased character and the understanding of what it takes to pursue a career in the fire service.

Fire Explorers offers the following benefits:

- The opportunity to learn teamwork and leadership skills
- High School credits
- Competitive activities at Fire Explorer Musters
- Challenge, Hard Work, Fun, and Friendship!
- Obtain experiences that can be listed on college, job and scholarship applications

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

The Riverside County Fire Explorers Program is a nonprofit organization formed in 2004 and delivered through local participating agencies such the City of Coachella Fire Department Station 79 where mentorship and hands-on lessons are offered. The Explorers volunteer their time to obtain real-world career experiences while gaining practical experience in the Fire field. The program basically helps youth make a more informed decision about their future career in Fire. The Explorers get to experience firsthand what it is like to be a volunteer or full-time firefighter through firefighting training and ride-alongs during actual fire calls.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Authorize Sponsorship Support to the Riverside County Fire Explorer Program at Station 79 Coachella Post in the Amount of \$2,500
2. Do Not Authorize Sponsorship Support to the Riverside County Fire Explorer Program at Station 79 Coachella Post in the Amount of \$2,500

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The General Fund will be reduced by \$2,500 if the City Council approves this sponsorship request.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Copy of IRS Letter of Determination