



**STAFF REPORT**  
**4/8/2026**

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

**FROM:** Andrew Simmons, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Approve a Special Event and associated appropriations for a Keys to the City Ceremony in Honor of the Coachella Valley High School Girls Soccer Team in Recognition of Their CIF Division 5 Championship.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is requesting approval of a special event and associated appropriations for a Keys to the City Ceremony in honor of the Coachella Valley High School Girls Soccer team, The Lady Arabs.

Staff recommends that the Keys to the City Event take place at Veteran's Park on or around the morning of May 2<sup>nd</sup> and that a catered breakfast be provided for the honorees and their guests. Staff recommends a budget of \$7,000 for the event set up an additional \$1,500 of in-kind labor from staff for the successful set up and delivery of the event.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Coachella Valley High School Girls Soccer Team, the Lady Arabs, completed the 2025/2026 season by winning 17 regular season games and advancing to the CIF championships. Through dedication, discipline, and teamwork, the Lady Arabs earned the title of CIF Division 5 Champions, achieving a historic milestone for their school and bringing pride and recognition to the City of Coachella. The team's CIF Division 5 Championship victory represents a first for the Coachella Valley, elevating their school and community with pride and distinction.

In order to recognize this dedicated group of 22 student athletes, their coaches, their families and the community pride inspired by their achievements, City Council has directed City Staff to plan, organize and host a Keys to the City Event.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

Staff has evaluated several opportunities for a celebration and seek City Council approval for the proposed event. The following options were considered:

1. Hosting a Keys to City event at the library park adjacent to 7<sup>th</sup> Street.  
In the past, many Keys to the City events have been hosted at the Coachella Library Park. These events typically require the closing of streets and also require the rental of a stage and sound system for hosting the event. Previous events have only hosted a couple recipients at a time. Staff was concerned that this area might not provide enough space to host a larger group of recipients. Staff was also concerned about increased overall costs due to stage and sound system rentals as well as additional in-kind costs due to extra labor required for street closures.
2. Hosting a Keys to the City Event at Bagdouma Park  
This option was considered as a larger community centered event that could include soccer themed activities within a park setting. Staff envisioned a block party atmosphere that would occur in the evening rather than the morning, with a catered dinner for the honorees, a DJ, food trucks and community-based activities. Hosting a large-scale event of this nature would increase costs significantly and significantly increase the staff time and involvement. Staff determined that an event at this scale could cost upwards of \$20,000 and does not recommend an event at this scale.
3. Hosting a Keys to the City Event at Veteran's Park.  
Staff determined that Veteran's Park would be the recommended location due the fact that it already has a suitable stage and the City poses a sound system that would be suitable for an event in this area. The Event would be set up in a similar fashion as the annual Veteran's breakfast with catered breakfast for all honorees. City Staff will also seek donations and sponsorship opportunities from local businesses to enhance the event without increasing costs.

Staff is recommending that a tentative date of Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> be selected for the event. A Saturday event allows maximum attendance from the honorees and their families. This date allows ample time for appropriate planning, marketing and solicitation of sponsorships. The exact time and date of the event will be determined thru a collaborative effort with the honorees.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The recommended budget for the event is \$7,000 which would be billed to the General Fund (Fund 101). Additional in-kind staff time for the planning and operations of the event are already budgeted in the annual budget appropriations.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.