

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-92

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF ACTION BY THE COLLEGE OF THE DESERT TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH IN THE EASTERN COACHELLA VALLEY

WHEREAS, the California Community College system is the most extensive post-secondary system of education in the world, enrolling approximately 2.1 million students each year in 116 community colleges; and

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the California Community Colleges is to offer academic and vocational instruction, colleges may grant associate in arts degrees, associate in science degrees, and select baccalaureate degrees; and

WHEREAS, California Community Colleges also perform essential functions in the State's interest by providing workforce training and improvement services, remedial instruction, English as Second Language courses, adult noncredit education, and community service courses; and

WHEREAS, the State has met its historic policy of access to higher education by providing consistent State bond capital outlay resources; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, the voters in the Coachella Valley approved the formation of the Desert Community College District ("District") to create a local two-year college (College of the Desert) that currently serves over 400,000 residents, 9 local cities and 3 local K-12 school districts; and

WHEREAS, in March 2004, the voters in the District voted overwhelmingly approved the Measure B General Obligation Bond, to authorize the sale of bonds, in the amount of \$346.5 million, that would enable the District to renovate its 40-year old campus and expand for future growth; and

WHEREAS, the District has already funded and completed various projects, such as renovations to the nursing building, the business building, and dining hall; along with new construction projects like Alumni Centre, Baker Foundation Nursing Complex, Burn Tower Training Facility, Central Plant, Public Safety Academy, Cravens Student Services Center, Indio East Valley Campus, and the Math Science Technology Center building; and

WHEREAS, the District currently has (Exhibit A) 10,998 students enrolled with 8,213 students being Hispanic/Latino which is 75% of its student population; and

WHEREAS, 3,902 students (Exhibit B) from the City of Coachella are currently enrolled in the District, which makes up 35% of its student population; and

WHEREAS, the success of the East Valley's economic and social future is enhanced by the educational attainment of its residents, especially post-secondary attainment; and

WHEREAS, student participation in quality post-secondary education is dependent on equitable access to transportation, affordable student housing and equitable instruction; and

WHEREAS, students living in the eastern most portion of the Coachella Valley have historically had limited access to consistent and comprehensive post-secondary academic and vocational instruction, leading to associate in arts or science degrees; and

WHEREAS, the classes offered at the Coachella Public Library and the Mecca Satellite Campus of the College of the Desert offers limited course offerings and program pathways.

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2021, the City of Coachella leased the Old Library building, located at 1538 7th Street, to the College of the Desert as a temporary Student Service Center until the tenant improvement project at the Pueblo Viejo Villas is complete. The City did not charge the District a monthly lease rate; instead, it agreed to allow the District to provide \$80,000 in tenant improvement to the Old Library Building; and

WHEREAS, the College of the Desert is currently conducting tenant improvements in a commercially leased unit in the new Pueblo Viejo Villas, which is an affordable housing project located at 1279 6th Street in Coachella. The 1,355 sq. ft. space will serve as a new Student Services for the residents of Coachella and is estimated to cost \$667,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Coachella, California does hereby request the following:

1. The District conduct a thorough planning process with sufficient community outreach for a feasibility study to identify potential sites to establish a branch in the eastern part of the Coachella Valley.
2. The District directs and authorizes the President of the District to work with the City Manager to continue to communicate and strategize on possible rebuilding, renovation upgrades, and programs needs within the Eastern Coachella Valley.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 12th day of October 2022.

Steven A. Hernandez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela M. Zepeda
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carlos Campos
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.
CITY OF COACHELLA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 2022-92 was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Coachella at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 12th day of October 2022, by the following vote of Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Andrea J. Carranza, MMC
Deputy City Clerk