

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-45

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING A DONATION POLICY ESTABLISHING A FORMAL, CITYWIDE FRAMEWORK FOR EVALUATING, ACCEPTING, DECLINING, DOCUMENTING, AND ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS TO THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO

WHEREAS, the City of Escondido regularly receives donation offers from a diverse range of sources offering to donate monetary (cash), endowments, personal property, real property, financial securities, equipment, in-kind goods or services, public artwork, artifacts, and other assets with no goods or services offered in returned; and

WHEREAS, donations reflect strong community engagement and an intention to benefit the City; and

WHEREAS, accepting donations may result in operational impacts, financial obligations, legal considerations, and long-term maintenance responsibilities, consideration must be given to the initial and long-term ownership costs inherent with accepting a donation; and

WHEREAS, the City has no obligation to accept a donation; and

WHEREAS, adopting the Donation Policy attached hereto as Exhibit "A," protects the City by adding consistency and transparency to the evaluation criteria, reduces the risk of accepting donations that create unfunded liabilities or administrative challenges, clearly defines approval thresholds, and ensures that accepted gifts align with the City's strategic priorities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed policy does not supersede or replace existing Administrative Directives nor grant naming rights associated with donations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Escondido, California, as follows:

1. That the above recitations are true.
2. That the City Council adopt the Donation Policy which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated by this reference, to strengthen fiscal stewardship by ensuring that costs, restrictions, and long-term obligations are evaluated before donations are accepted.
3. That the City Council delegates authority to the City Manager to adjust donation approval thresholds within the Donation Policy, without requiring further Council action.
4. That the City Council authorizes the applicable Department Head, or designee, to execute Public Art Donation Agreements and Public Art Loan Agreements, including agreements based on City approved templates, provided the donation or loan has been accepted in accordance with the City's Donation Policy and the agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the City Attorney.