



PARKS, ARTS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 19, 2023

Subject: Mid-Autumn Festival

Prepared by: Manny A. Hernandez, Parks & Recreation Director

Initiated by: Staff

Attachment(s): A. Mid-Autumn Festival Event

Staff Recommendation

Receive update from Chinese Community Association and Staff and discuss Commission involvement.

Environmental Review:

Not applicable

Summary/Project Description:

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival, is a traditional festival celebrated in Chinese culture and it is also celebrated by many other Asian countries, such as Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

The history of the Mid-Autumn Festival dates back over 3,000 years. The festival is held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunisolar calendar with a full moon at night. Therefore, it symbolizes the family reunion and on this day all families will appreciate the Moon in the evening.

On this day, the Chinese believe that the Moon is at its brightest and fullest size, coinciding with harvest time in the middle of Autumn. Lanterns of all sizes and shapes are carried and displayed – symbolic beacons that light people's path to prosperity and good fortune. Mooncakes, a rich pastry typically filled with sweet-bean, egg yolk, meat or lotus-seed paste, are traditionally eaten during this festival.

Fiscal Impact:

None

Discussion/Analysis

Staff and the Chinese Community Association will provide an update on the program and the PARC Commission will have an opportunity to discuss involvement in the event.