



PARKS, ARTS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 15, 2023

Subject: Moon Festival

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

Initiated by: Staff

Attachment(s): A. Moon Festival Event Proposal

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends the Commission discuss involvement in the Parks & Recreation Department Moon Festival.

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

PARC Commission should ask questions about the festival and discuss possible Commission involvement in the event.