

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-8

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES SUPPORTING ENHANCED INVESTMENTS, EQUITABLE SERVICES, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BY PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE NEEDLES COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, Palo Verde Community College (PVCC) is a critical partner in providing education, workforce development, and economic opportunities for the Needles community; and

WHEREAS, the Needles campus faces significant challenges, including:

1. **Lack of In-Person Counseling Services** for Students.
2. **Course Cancellations**: Classes have been withdrawn before school begins, resulting in students losing **FAFSA eligibility** and disrupting education.
3. **Lack of Dedicated Budget and Data**: Needles does not receive equitable funding.
4. **There are** no clear goals or vision for the campus.

WHEREAS, substantial grant funds, including Adult Education and Career Technical Education (CTE) funds, totaling **\$1.5 million** have been allocated to programs like HVAC, vehicle maintenance, and the computer information systems programs but these resources have not adequately benefited Needles; and

WHEREAS, Needles property owners have contributed significantly to PVCC through **two General Obligation (GO) Bond Measures**:

1. The **2004 bond** in the amount of **\$6 million**.
2. The **2014 bond** in the amount of **\$12 million**.
These bonds are repaid through property taxes levied on parcels, with property owners contributing based on assessed parcel values, demonstrating the community's ongoing financial support for the college; and

WHEREAS, Needles is positioned for growth with access to a larger student base, unlike Blythe, Needles is positioned to serve as a hub for workforce training programs such as:

- **Nursing, Plumbing, Electrical Trades, Home Building, Lineman Training, and Water Treatment;**

WHEREAS, PVCC's potential declining enrollment due to the loss of incarcerated student programs and fire training programs jeopardizes the college's financial stability, with reserves projected to be depleted within **three years**; and

WHEREAS, PVCC must prioritize efforts to **diversify its student population** and concentrate on expanding educational opportunities in underserved communities such as Needles, which present significant potential for enrollment growth and community impact; and

WHEREAS, the City of Needles advocates for equitable investment to **bolster CTE programs** and establish Needles as a driver of enrollment growth, workforce development, and economic opportunity for the region; and

WHEREAS, the community has identified the urgent need for a **Child Care Facility** to serve 40 children, create jobs, and remove barriers to education and workforce participation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES AS FOLLOWS:

1. **Equitable Services and Programs:** PVCC is urged to provide in-person counseling, guaranteed classes, and equitable investment in Needles to ensure services are on par with those offered in Blythe.
2. **Workforce Development:** PVCC must prioritize the expansion of CTE programs in high-demand fields such as nursing, plumbing, electrical trades, and water treatment to meet the workforce needs of the community.
3. **Grant Fund Accountability and Implementation:** Funds allocated to Needles, including Adult Education and CTE, and federal grants must be fully implemented to benefit local residents.
4. **Child Care Facility:** PVCC is encouraged to collaborate with community partners to establish a Child Care Facility, addressing a critical barrier to student participation and supporting workforce readiness.
5. **Recognition of Financial Support:** The City acknowledges the significant financial contributions made by Needles property owners through the **2004 (\$6 million)** and **2014 (\$12 million)** GO bond measures and urges PVCC to invest these resources equitably to support Needles' growth and development.
6. **Diversifying the Student Population:** PVCC must focus on diversifying its student base and increasing access for underserved communities like Needles, which offer unique opportunities for enrollment growth and program expansion.
7. **Vision for Growth and Collaboration:** PVCC must work with the City of Needles to develop clear goals, collect data, and invest in the future of Needles, recognizing its growth potential and role in stabilizing the college's enrollment.
8. **Collaborative Success:** This is not a competition between campuses but a shared effort to ensure PVCC's long-term success by improving services, enrollment, and opportunities for all communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council on January 14, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

Mayor Janet Jernigan

ATTEST:

Candace Clark, Interim City Clerk