

Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: April 21, 2026
To: City Council
Through: Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager



Agenda Item: Establishing a Community Memorial Fund for the Purpose of Supporting the Development, Improvement, and Maintenance of Pavilions, Parks, Playgrounds, and Other Community Spaces Within the City of Whittier

BACKGROUND, JUSTIFICATION, & INTENT:

The City of Whittier continues to invest in community spaces that support residents, families, and visitors while strengthening the character and livability of our community. Recent efforts, including beautification initiatives and the development of micro-parks and public gathering areas, have highlighted a growing interest from community members to contribute to these improvements in meaningful ways.

Residents and visitors often seek opportunities to honor loved ones or support the community through memorial donations or sponsorships. At present, the City does not have a dedicated funding mechanism to consistently receive and manage these contributions for public amenities. Establishing a Community Memorial Fund will provide a clear and transparent structure to accept and administer donations specifically designated for community improvements such as pavilions, parks, playgrounds, and other shared public spaces.

Creating this fund aligns with the City's commitment to strengthening public spaces and fostering community pride. It provides a formal and accountable process for managing memorial contributions while ensuring that funds are used solely for public purposes approved by the City Council. The fund will support projects that contribute to community well-being, recreation, and beautification, and will allow the City to leverage community support to enhance facilities that serve current residents and future generations.

Pursuant to Whittier Municipal Code Title 3 – Finance and Taxation, the City Council has the authority to establish special revenue funds and to accept donations and gifts for municipal purposes. Establishing this fund ensures those contributions are properly accounted for and administered in accordance with City financial policies and oversight.

The intent of this resolution is to establish a dedicated Community Memorial Fund to receive and manage voluntary donations and memorial contributions for the planning, construction, improvement, and maintenance of public amenities within the City of Whittier, including pavilions, parks, playgrounds, and other community gathering spaces. The fund will provide a structured and transparent mechanism to support community-driven projects while maintaining appropriate fiscal oversight and Council authority.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Legislative Priorities:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Comprehensive Plan:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Whittier Code: *Whittier Municipal Code Title 3 – Finance and Taxation*
4. Other:

FISCAL NOTE: Establishing the Community Memorial Fund does not require an initial appropriation. The fund will be supported through voluntary donations, grants, sponsorships, and other contributions. Expenditures from the fund will occur only upon City Council appropriation in accordance with the City’s budget and financial procedures.

ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes No Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of Resolution No. 2026-020 establishing the City of Whittier Community Memorial Fund.