

Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026
To: City Council
Through: Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager
From: Vice Mayor Denmark



Agenda Item: Authorizing Up to \$150,000 in City In-Kind Support and a \$100,000 Financial Contribution to the Nonprofit USS *Ted Stevens* Commissioning Committee to Support Commissioning Events, the Ship's Crew and Their Families, Public Safety, Community Readiness, and Communitywide Activities Associated with the Commissioning

BACKGROUND, JUSTIFICATION, & INTENT:

The City of Whittier has been selected to host the commissioning of the future USS *Ted Stevens*, an extraordinary honor for the community and the State of Alaska. A commissioning formally welcomes a United States Navy vessel, her officers, and crew into active service. Whittier's selection is especially meaningful given the community's military history and its development during World War II as a strategic military port and transportation hub. The nonprofit USS *Ted Stevens* Commissioning Committee is coordinating commissioning activities and supporting the ship's crew and their families. Commissioning week will extend beyond the formal ceremony and is expected to include community activities, military and family events, hospitality, transportation, public safety, visitor services, and other activities throughout Whittier.

The Resolution authorizes the City to participate as a community partner by providing up to \$150,000 in City in-kind support and a \$100,000 financial contribution to the nonprofit USS *Ted Stevens* Commissioning Committee. The City's participation will support the ship's crew and their families, public safety, community readiness, municipal coordination, and communitywide commissioning activities while helping Whittier fulfill its responsibilities as the host community. The Resolution establishes a maximum combined City commitment of \$250,000 and authorizes a contribution agreement establishing accountability, documentation, and reporting requirements. Administration finds the contribution appropriate given the honor of Whittier's selection, the communitywide impact of commissioning week, and the opportunity to support military service members and their families while allowing Whittier residents and businesses to participate in this historic occasion.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Legislative Priorities:	☐	☐	☒
2. Comprehensive Plan:	☐	☐	☒
3. Whittier Code:	☐	☐	☒
4. Other:	☐	☐	☒

FISCAL NOTE:

In-Kind Contributions will include staff salary and benefits associated with readiness, preparation and supervision of community events and activities related to the commissioning, as well as offsetting costs associated with Ground Transportation Fees to be borne by the City. The financial contribution is appropriated from the General Fund Reserves and will be offset in part, by financial and economic activities related to the commissioning. Strong community commitment and support of this important military event will demonstrate the extent to which Whittier embraces its unique place in Alaska's military history, and will further align with future plans to expand Whittier's military museum and pursue support for future military logistics.

ATTORNEY REVIEW: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends that the City Council authorize up to \$150,000 in City in-kind support and a \$100,000 financial contribution to the nonprofit USS Ted Stevens Commissioning Committee and authorize the City Manager to execute the contribution agreement and coordinate the City's participation in commissioning activities.