


Agenda Report Reviewed by:
City Manager: 

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM

Meeting Date: September 21, 2021
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Administrative Services Director
City Administration
Subject: City Council Initiatives Fund
Recommendation : That the City Council Discuss and Provide Direction to Staff
Funding: Currently Budgeted: _____ Yes _____ No XX N/A
Net General Fund Cost: 100-1001-4800
Budgeted FY 21-22: \$2,500.00

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget _____ (verified by Administrative Services Department)

INTRODUCTION:

This item is to request the City Council Discuss and Consider Direction to City Staff to Review in the FY 22-23 Budget Funding the City Council Initiatives Fund.

BACKGROUND:

In fiscal year 2010-2011, the City Council Initiatives budget line item was established in the City’s budget to allow the City Council to allocate funding to specific initiatives or projects. Each Councilmember is allocated 1/5 of the total budget for this line item and can be used to provide funding to Council desired initiatives and to encourage innovation that has the potential to support and contribute to the goals of Council in conformance with City regulations and policies. Each Councilmember can expend their entire allotment; transfer their funds to another Councilmember’s initiative or project; or return those funds to the General Fund at the end of the year to be placed back into the City’s fund balance.

Approval of any funding is required to be approved by a majority of the City Council (three affirmative votes).

Funds allocated in the that Fiscal year’s budget need to be disbursed no later than July 30th, of that fiscal year for the City to close out the Budget or will be returned to the City’s General Fund.

DISCUSSION:

Since this fund was initiated, many various programs and non-profit agencies have received funding from this account (such as Sebastopol World Friends Transportation Costs and Scholarships, Cittaslow, Chamber of Commerce, Analy 1-4-1 Club (Culinary Boot Camp, Sacramento Leadership Council trip), Community Center, Senior Center, Ives Pool, Sebastopol Fire Department, City Hall/Library Landscaping, Appreciation Dinner, as well as purchasing equipment such as automated external defibrillator (AEDs) for the Sebastopol Fire Department and Community Center.

There are many worthwhile and valuable projects and initiatives that benefit from the allocation of these funds such as community groups and organizations that provide special activities, programs or services to the citizens of

the community. As the number and variety of funding requests made to the City have increased over the years, this allows the City Council an opportunity to allocate additional funds to these worthwhile organizations, projects and initiatives.

Each year the Council has budgeted \$2500 for Five Councilmembers (\$500 each) to be used for various uses. However, during election years, newly elected Councilmembers do not have the opportunity to be able to use the \$500 as funding was not allocated for the newly elected Councilmembers. The budget would be dependent upon the number of newly elected Councilmembers.

The agenda item tonight is to recommend the City Council direct City staff to allocate funding for newly Elected Councilmembers each election year.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, if staff receives public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of this item.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight; however if Council approves future funding for Council initiatives for newly elected Councilmembers, the future budgets will need to be adjusted.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is to request the City Council Direct City Staff to Review this item in the FY 22-23 Budget Funding the City Council Initiatives Fund.

Attachments:

None