



## CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Honorable City Council **Item No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** City Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Resolution to Approve the Reimplementation of the Cultural Excursion Program

### RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the resolution approving the reimplementation of the Cultural Excursion program for Commerce high school graduates (Class of 2017).

### BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

Prior to the recession, the City of Commerce sponsored a yearly Cultural Excursion. All Commerce high school seniors interested in learning about the history of the United States and government were invited to apply for this once in a lifetime all-expense paid trip to New York and the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The last sponsored trip was in 2008. Mayor Pro Tem Baca Del Rio recommended that the City re-implement the program.

In the past, the City hired an excursion company to organize all aspects of the trip at a cost of approximately \$60,000.00. Staff recommends independently planning and coordinating the trip to better fit the student needs and experiences for a significantly lower cost of \$26,000.00. Staff is now working on a preliminary daily itinerary of events for the students to experience while on the excursion. Tentative travel dates are July 11-18, 2017.

Should the City Council approve the reimplementation, staff will immediately send out informational flyers via citywide pass out, posters at all park locations and through social media. Staff will also send out direct mailers targeting residents within the appropriate age range. The application submission deadline will be set for Friday, June 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. The raffle of 8 spots will then take place at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the same day.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff has estimated the following cost for 8 students and 2 chaperones at \$26,000.00:

Airfare	\$4,000.00
Lodging	\$11,000.00
Per diem/entrance fees/misc.	\$9,000.00
Ground travel	\$2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,000.00</b>

If the City Council approves the cultural excursion as highlighted above, staff recommends that FY 2016-17 surplus funds be used to fund the event.

**STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:** Community Quality of Life: The City of Commerce will provide services, programs, gathering places, and events where the community can come together to participate in opportunities of learning and recreation. Positive relationships with the community will be cultivated through civic engagement, comprehensive public safety programs, responsive customer service, and clear accessible communication. Our community's history, culture and environment will be protected for future generations. **GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1:** Continue to support and create partnerships with educational institutions and organizations that work to improve the lives of our residents, including the local school district. Provide multi-generational development programs to ensure quality education and recreational opportunities.

Recommended by: Robert Lipton, Director of Parks & Recreation

Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Director of Finance

Approved as to form: Eduardo Olivo, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted: Matthew C. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator