



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Ralph Wright, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2026-107, accepting a donation from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians for \$25,000 to support the Fourth of July Celebration and the Aerial Fireworks Show

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2026-107

BACKGROUND:

The City of Banning offers an annual Fourth of July Community event in celebration of the Nation's Independence Day. This year's event includes kids' activities, food vendors, a live band, arts and crafts, and culminates with a spectacular aerial fireworks show. The event is free to the public, and the cost to produce the event is nearly \$50,000. Due to the structural deficit in the City's General Fund, donations were sought to offset the event costs. Staff contacted the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, which was able to sponsor \$25,000 for the community event.

City of Banning Administrative Policy B-27, "Donations to City Funds and Programs/Administration," became effective in April 2015 and was reviewed in July 2018. The policy establishes procedures for accepting donations in support of City programs and services, including approval thresholds. Under the policy, donations of \$1,000 or more require approval by the City Council.

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting the Banning community. During the past year, the Tribe has made substantial contributions to the Banning Pass Little League and the Stagecoach Days Association in support of community programs and improvements at Banning parks.

As City staff continue to evaluate the City's financial condition, the costs and community benefits associated with City-supported programs and events are also being reviewed. Recognizing the importance of this year's Fourth of July celebration and the City's current financial constraints, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians has generously offered a sponsorship donation that will fund approximately one-half of the event's total costs.

JUSTIFICATION:

The General Fund almost fully supports the Parks and Recreation Budget and its large-scale Special

Events. The annual Fourth of July celebration serves the entire community, with over 1,500 people inside the gate during the event and thousands more watching the fireworks from surrounding neighborhoods and local parks each year. Without generous donations like this one from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, large-scale events may have to be canceled or scaled back, which would negatively impact the City of Banning and its residents.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The \$25,000 donation is half the total cost of the Fourth of July event. It allows the community to enjoy an amazing event and create long-lasting memories for families and friends alike.

The proposed Resolution requests acceptance of the donation. It also authorizes an increase of \$25,000 to the Fourth of July Donation Account 001-5400-361.41-26 for Fiscal Year 2025/26, since the cost of the fireworks show needed to be paid in full before the event.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution2026-107 .docx](#)
2. [Policy B-27 - Acceptance of Donations & Completed Donation Form.pdf](#)