



# Mira Mesa Concerned Citizens

Community Update and Dialogue  
Wednesday, October 11, 2023

# Agenda

1. Failed Oversight
  - a. Deferred Maintenance
  - b. Devaluation of City Property
  - c. Public Health & Safety Concerns
2. Transfer Oversight
  - a. Remove Encumbrance – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
3. Mira Mesa Community Fund
4. Lunch
5. Community Vision
  - a. Vision of Mira Mesa Concerned Citizens

# Mira Mesa Community Fund (400182)

- Established with Proceeds from the Westview Development agreement and a settlement with Shapell Industries.
- A total of \$2,001,412 was deposited in this fund (400182) and was to be used for public improvements in Mira Mesa *as identified by the community*.
- The interest earned as of 6/30/16 was \$530,593, bringing the total to \$2,532,005.

# Mira Mesa Teen Center Fund (400183)

- December 2, 1997 the City Council established the Mira Mesa Teen Center Fund (400183) by transferring \$500,000 from the Mira Community Fund.
- The interest generated from this fund could be used, if necessary, to cover operational shortfalls for the San Diego Regional Teen Center in Mira Mesa.
- On April 14<sup>th</sup> 2016, the City Council approved the closure of the Teen Center and transferred the remaining funds, \$511, 187, back to the Mira Mesa Community Fund (400182)

# Mira Mesa Community Fund Expenditures

Category	Total Expenditures	Balance
Starting Balance		\$ 2,532,005
Tot Lot Improvements and Upgrades	\$ 240,000	\$ 2,292,005
Mira Mesa Senior Center Parking Lot Expansion	\$ 311,383	\$ 1,980,622
Mira Mesa CP Sports Field Lighting	\$ 30,000	\$ 1,950,622
Reimburse Harmonium for Reuse Plans for Old MM Library	\$ 53,732	\$ 1,896,890
Redevelop Old MM Library (Teen Center, Police Storefront, & RSVP Office)	\$ 996,140	\$ 900,750
Teen Center Fund Transfer	\$ 500,000	\$ 400,750
<b>Total Project Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 2,131,255</b>	
<b>Subtotal Mira Mesa Community Fund Balance (6/30/2016)</b>		<b>\$ 400,750</b>

# Mira Mesa Community Fund Adjustments

Category	Adjustments	Balance
Subtotal Mira Mesa Community Fund Balance (6/30/2016)	\$ 400,750	\$ 400,750.00
Transfer from Teen Center Fund 400183	\$ (511,187)	\$ 911,937.00
<b>Mira Mesa Community Fund Balance as of 6/30/2016</b>		\$ 911,937.00

# Mira Mesa Community Fund and the Epicentre

Category	Total Expenditures
Reimburse Harmonium for Reuse Plans for Old MM Library	\$ 53,732
Redevelop Old MM Library (Teen Center, Police Storefront, & RSVP Office)	\$ 996,140
Teen Center Fund Transfer	\$ 500,000
<b>Epicentre Expenditures as of 6/30/2016</b>	<b>\$ 1,549,872</b>

# Mira Mesa Community Fund 2023

Since 2016, our community was not advised about this fund and it went out of public site. We started asking questions about the fund as it has a history tied to the Epicentre and was intended in part to support Arts and Culture in Mira Mesa

- On 8/24/2023, we found out that the Mira Mesa Community Fund had a balance of \$1,014,108.30.
- Out of that balance \$1,000,000 was appropriated/earmarked to Project L160021 – Mira Mesa Pool & Skate Plaza Phase 2.
- This left a balance of \$14,108.30 in our fund for other projects.



Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

How?



# Mira Mesa Community Fund 2023

- **Who** – Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, chaired by our City Councilmember Kent Lee
- **What** – A resolution authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to expend funds and payments for the construction project for Phase II of the Mira Mesa Community Park expansion (Project L160021). Please note they did not use the correct name, “**Mira Mesa Community Capital Outlay**”
- **Where** – Where were the residents and community members from Mira Mesa that requested this expenditure? MMTC, MMRC, MMPC?
- **When** – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# Mira Mesa Community Fund 2023

- **Why** – Councilmember Lee, “Because we can’t just have this money sitting around”. He said that they were instructed to spend community funds. How many other communities in San Diego have lost funds this way? Requests for expenditures of our funds are supposed to be voted on by the entire City Council in public view, not behind a committee meeting.
- **How** – How did this happen? Most residents in Mira Mesa have no idea this fund exists and there is not a process in place to request for these funds to be used. They have been out of the public view since 2016. The City tried to subsidize one of their projects with this fund and the Mira Mesa Senior Center fund as well. If we had not found out about this, these funds would have been lost without the Mira Mesa Community’s knowledge.

# What can we do?

## How do we protect our Mira Mesa Community Fund?

- Request that Councilmember Lee provide a written statement that he is restoring the 1 million dollars to our fund. Let him know this is a priority for this community.
- Work with Councilmember Lee and the City to create a process for requesting these funds. Create a Community Plan where we, the residents, are empowered.
- Inquire if we can add money to the fund. Can businesses and people donate to it? Or can we transfer these funds to a community fund that is not contingent on the City Council?

# Community Vision for Funds

During lunch and our breakout sessions, let's talk about where you would like to see these funds used. Here are a few ideas:

- New carpet for the Mira Mesa Library
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks
- A foundation run by residents with full transparency
- ???

# Community Advocacy

Another topic for lunch is how do we advocate for Mira Mesa? We have 3 Community Groups.

- Mira Mesa Town Council
- Mira Mesa Planning Group
- Mira Mesa Recreation Council

During lunch, please compile what you know about these groups.

- What is each group's function?
- How is their board elected?
- What is their connection to the city?
- Are any or all of them advocacy groups?

*\*If you are a board member of any of these groups, please refrain from sharing so we can get the perception from the residents.*