



Department Source: City Manager

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 6, 2022

Re: Appropriation of Share the Light Funds in hand

Executive Summary

The Share the Light program began in August 2001 as a way for residents to contribute to a range of City of Columbia projects through their utility bill on a one-time or monthly basis. As of May 2022, nearly \$341,000 has been raised for six areas of city programming. The six areas are community arts programming, community beautification, youth recreation scholarships, public health, fire prevention and education, and crime prevention. Each donation is made for a specific area of programming and is to be used only for programming in that area of giving. Staff is requesting appropriation of Share the Light funds already donated for use by the Office of Neighborhood Services, Columbia Police, and Public Health and Human Services departments.

Discussion

The Share the Light program allows Columbia residents to contribute to one or more of six areas of city programming that extend beyond basic City services. The six areas are community arts programming, community beautification, youth recreation scholarships, public health, fire prevention and education, and crime prevention. Since Share the Light started, more than \$252,000 has been appropriated (including this request) throughout all six program areas.

Staff asks that \$29,500 in Share the Light funds already on hand be appropriated for the following three departmental programs:

1. \$11,000 for the Office of Neighborhood Services to reestablish landscaping at four sites—Rollins at Bonnie View, Paris/Route B at Mexico Gravel/Brown Station Road, and two beds at Brown Station Road at Blue Ridge and Leeway. A contractor will be hired to refurbish the beds and then volunteers will install plants and maintain the areas.
2. \$2,500 for Columbia Police for their funding of the Neighborhood Watch Program (once an agreement is processed through City Council) for their efforts in crime prevention in Columbia neighborhoods.
3. \$16,000 for Public Health and Human Services to fund two specific programs: A) \$8,000 for the pediatric dental program that targets daycare students—including toothbrushes, toothpaste, tooth brushing incentives, and similar items for babies and toddlers in the WIC program, and B) \$8,000 for the chronic disease prevention program to purchase sharps boxes to allow citizens to dispose of insulin syringes and other injection supplies and allow for their safe disposal.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Inclusive Community, Secondary Impact: Safe Neighborhoods, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Economic Development, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|-----------------------|---|
| 08/01/2011 to present | Balances of Share the Light funds are announced to the departments overseeing the six areas of giving three times per year. The dollars requested are already donated and in hand; these appropriation requests arise when the departments wish to use their funds for particular City programs or services deemed above and beyond basic operations. There is no set schedule when departments identify needs or purposes for the dollars. |

Suggested Council Action

Approval of this ordinance and appropriation of funds.