

## COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

January 25, 2012

The Community & Cultural Development Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on January 25, 2012 at 7:30 a.m.

### COMMITTEE PRESENT

Dave Richins, Chairman  
Christopher Glover  
Scott Somers

### COMMITTEE ABSENT

### STAFF PRESENT

Natalie Lewis  
Alfred Smith

#### 1. Items from citizens present.

Citizens addressed the Committee under item 2-a.

#### 2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on a license agreement with Edu-Prize, Inc., for the use of the Washington Activity Center for the provision of a charter school, after school, summer school, and adult community resident programs.

Director of Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Marc Heirshberg introduced Dr. Lynn Robershotte, Superintendent of Edu-Prize Charter School and Dr. Barbara Duncan, Assistant Principal for Edu-Prize Charter School, who were prepared to address the Committee. He provided a brief summary of the budget reductions that will have a direct effect on the Washington Activity Center (WAC). He stated that in 2011 staff was informed that this would be the last year that funding for the WAC would be made available and if a community partner was not obtained the WAC would be closed. **(See Page 2 of Attachment 1)**

Discussion ensued regarding the Federal government's reduction of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars.

Chairman Richins commented that the information that has been provided to the Council is that CDBG dollars could be cut as much as \$600,000 this year.

Mr. Heirshberg reported that in 2011 the West Mesa Community Development Corporation (CDC) introduced City staff to the Edu-Prize Charter School. He said that Dr. Robershotte, who received her start at Eisenhower Elementary School, would like to give back to the community and place an Edu-Prize Charter School at the WAC.

A video presentation describing Edu-Prize Charter Schools and their accomplishments was played for the Committee.

Mr. Heirshberg advised that on June 2, 2011, Edu-Prize Charter Schools made a presentation to the community to notify them of their interest in opening a charter school at the WAC. He said Edu-Prize also sponsored a movie night at Washington Park and again presented information about the school. He stated that the community was informed at the meeting held on January 10, 2012, that staff would be recommending that the full Council entertain a licensing agreement with Edu-Prize for the operation of a charter school at the WAC. Mr. Heirshberg informed the Committee that it was staff's recommendation that the licensing agreement be forwarded on to the full Council with an effective date of July 1, 2012.

Mr. Heirshberg briefly outlined the City's responsibilities as part of the licensing agreement as follows:

- Maintain the exterior of the building (foundation, walls and roof)
- Repair/replace perimeter walls/fence as necessary
- Repair/replace heating/cooling units, utility/property infrastructure (main water pipes, delivery systems, electrical service/delivery systems)

Mr. Heirshberg said that Edu-Prize Charter School's responsibilities would include:

- 100% cost of utilities, normal repairs/maintenance to building and adjacent grounds
- Center will be used for the provision of a charter school, after-school program, summer school and adult community programs

Mr. Heirshberg reported that the licensing agreement, which has been reviewed by the City Attorney's office, includes opportunities for open recreation, summer camp, recreation programs, arts and crafts, sports activities, dance, bingo night, adult programming, preschool programs and Boy and Girl Scouts. (See Page 8 of Attachment 1) He said that the school would have an extended calendar program with longer days Monday through Thursday and a shorter day on Friday. He added that the WAC would continue to be available for use by the community.

Dr. Robershotte addressed the Committee and said that when the Edu-Prize facility opened in Pinal County there were 1,000 students enrolled on the first day. She explained that Edu-Prize was not seeking a mega-satellite school but a partnership with the City of Mesa and Mesa Public Schools. She said that Edu-Prize can offer the community the gift of education, in a modest facility, with no more than 75 to 80 students.

Dr. Robershotte stated that she understood the concerns that the community had with regards to the history of the area. She said that Edu-Prize hopes to be embraced by the community and engage them as partners.

In response to a question from Committeemember Glover, Mr. Heirshberg explained that there will be approximately \$600,000 in cuts facing the Housing Committee this year and that the WAC represents \$200,000 of that funding. He said based on the direction that has been provided in the past, this year would be the last year that funding for the WAC would occur. He said that the City does not have the funds in its Operating Budget to support the WAC, therefore, it is assumed that Council will direct that the building be closed.

Mr. Heirshberg advised that the City Manager has been in contact with the Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools who has indicated that he supports the Edu-Prize Charter School entering the community.

In response to a question from Committeemember Somers, Mr. Heirshberg advised that the programs that are currently offered at the WAC include afterschool programing between the hours of 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., summer camp programs and holiday camps. He said that the WAC is also used for community meetings and family gatherings.

Responding to a question from Committeemember Somers, Dr. Robershotte explained that the community would lose the use of the facility between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. She explained that Edu-Prize intends to offer an extended school day, therefore, the facility would not be available to children who were not enrolled as students at the charter school during that time. She said Edu-Prize would be offering sports programs, community programs, adult programs and community events. She added that although Edu-Prize generally does not do bingo nights it is something that the community has requested and could be facilitated under this agreement.

Mr. Heirshberg advised that one of the provisions of the licensing agreement states that Edu-Prize, on an annual basis, will provide the City with a calendar of the activities offered and attendance for those activities.

In response to a series of questions from Committeemember Somers, Mr. Heirshberg explained that there are between 75 and 80 students who participate in the after-school program on a daily basis. He said that Mesa Public Schools and the YMCA offer after-school programs however, there is a cost for those programs. He noted that parents might be able to obtain assistance through the State to help cover the cost of those programs.

Dr. Robershotte commented that Edu-Prize will cover the cost to operate an extended school day program and summer camp programs.

Committeemember Somers requested that staff explore ways to assist in transitioning students to other programs.

Diane Hunter, Director of the WAC, addressed the Committee and said that the 75 to 80 children that participate in the after-school program are school age children from Eisenhower Elementary School. She stated that these children could be enrolled in the Edu-Prize School and therefore, would not need to transition to another program.

Committeemember Somers suggested that a survey be conducted to determine if the parents of those children attending the after-school program at the WAC intend to enroll their children into the Edu-Prize Charter School.

Ms. Hunter commented that there have been discussions with regard to Edu-Prize operating a preschool program that would address the needs of the three and four-year-old children that currently utilize the WAC. She said that the older children do not attend the WAC until 4:30 p.m. and usually choose to “hang-out” in the park and utilize the basketball courts.

Mr. Heirshberg advised that Dr. Robershotte and staff have indicated that they are willing to go door-to-door if necessary to explain the school and offer registration forms to the families. He said that parents will have the choice to continue utilizing MPS or enroll their children in the Edu-Prize Charter School. He explained that because Edu-Prize is a charter school the funding will come from the State and there will not be an increase in fees. He stated that the other entities who expressed an interest in partnering with the City indicated that they would need to charge a fee for the programs in order to cover their costs. He added that Edu-Prize has offered to cover the costs and will include a breakfast program.

In response to a question from Committeemember Somers, Mr. Heirshberg explained that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was not completed. He advised that staff did have conversations with the Boys and Girls Club, Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) and the Marc Center, all of which expressed an interest in a partnership if they could charge a fee.

Responding to a question from Committeemember Somers, City Attorney, Alfred Smith, advised that he would research and determine if there was a need for an RFP. He said in this situation a Request for Qualification (RFQ) may be more appropriate.

In response to a series of questions from Committeemember Somers, Mr. Heirshberg explained that the term of the contract is for three years with a two-year renewal option. He said that it is estimated that this program would save the City \$200,000 a year.

Committeemember Somers commented that he had concerns with regards to how students would be transitioned to other programs, how the City would assist with that transition and whether or not an RFQ was necessary. He stated that maintenance on the building will be the responsibility of the City, therefore, he said it would be nice if funding could be obtained to modernize the building and provide a more educational flair. He suggested that a local artist “do something” on the outside of the building that would both beautify the neighborhood and reflect the nature of the education that will be provided.

Discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities of updating and maintaining the building.

Maria Mancinas, a Mesa resident, read a letter (**See Attachment 2**) that she intended to send to the Mayor and Councilmembers expressing her concerns with regard to the placement of an Edu-Prize Charter School at the WAC. She advised that the survey that was conducted in the community and submitted to the City was incomplete, questionable and biased.

In response to a question from Chairman Richins, Ms. Mancinas explained that she will be submitting petitions that include nearly 200 signatures along with letters that state the vision and expectations the members of the community have for the Washington-Escobedo area. (**See Attachment 3**) She added that the members of the community will continue to meet with the West Mesa CDC to develop a Quality of Life Plan.

Gilbert Valenzuela, a student at Westwood High School, read a letter to the Committee expressing his concerns with regards to Edu-Prize placing a charter school at the WAC. He said turning the WAC into a charter school would remove the community's gathering place for which he has fond childhood memories. **(See Attachment 4)**

Sara Hines, a Mesa resident, who has worked at the WAC, stated that the building is a historical marker and an important part of the neighborhood. She explained that the WAC is a place where children, who may not have the best home life, can go and have a safe place to do "fun things." Ms. Hines expressed her support for the recommendation and said that having a charter school at the WAC would provide the children with a good education at no additional cost as well as keep the center open for community gatherings. She noted that the children currently attending the center would be offered the first opportunity to enroll in the charter school.

Bruce Nelson, a Mesa resident, addressed the Committee and said that he attended Booker T. Washington Elementary School and is familiar with the history of the area. He advised that the members of the community who signed the petitions did not have the full scope of what Edu-Prize Charter School has to offer. He stated that Edu-Prize Charter School has indicated that they will continue to keep the building available for community gatherings. Mr. Nelson requested that the Committee move forward with the recommendation in order to prevent the building from being closed.

In response to a question from Chairman Richins, Mr. Nelson explained that he has been working on a documentary that was filmed at the WAC. He said for this project people were invited to talk about what it was like growing up around the WAC during a time when the area was a predominantly black community. He added that a preview of the documentary will be shown on February 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Nile Theatre.

Mr. Nelson said that he supports the request to place a charter school at the WAC and believes that it will be a positive step for the community.

Chairman Richins commented that Mr. Nelson's documentary might be appropriate to air on Channel 11.

Cozetta Blake, a Mesa resident, addressed the Committee and said that the members of the community are intelligent, business-minded individuals who, if provided the opportunity, could develop their own ideas for the Washington-Escobedo area. She commented on the large salaries paid to the full and part-time staff at the WAC and said that salaries as well as the \$200,000 budget could have been cut. Ms. Blake voiced her concerns regarding where community functions such as a "repast" would take place if the WAC was utilized as a school.

In response to a question from Committeemember Somers, Mr. Heirshberg explained that the amounts reflected in the budget do not represent an employee's actual salary. He said the budgeted amounts for a position include the employee's salary, insurance, benefits and other indirect costs.

Discussion ensued relative to the budgeted costs for an employee, which includes wages, benefits, and the costs to maintain the system as a whole.

Committeemember Somers stated that the building will continue to be available for the activities requested by the community however, there could be some time constraints with regard to school activities.

Mr. Heirshberg remarked that Edu-Prize has made it clear that the school will have an extended day program. He stated that it is hoped that the community will take advantage of the opportunities that Edu-Prize will have to offer. He added that Dr. Robershotte is committed to working with the community to ensure that the requested events will continue to take place.

Committeemember Somers remarked that the fire station has a community room and there are other community buildings nearby that could be used for neighborhood activities.

Leslie Hill, Director of Patient Community Relations at Arizona Regional Medical Center, addressed the Committee and expressed her support for the recommendation. She reported that Arizona Regional Medical Center was excited with the prospect of having Edu-Prize Charter School in the neighborhood. She said that Edu-Prize has committed to honor the history and culture of the community as well as provide a quality education to the children.

Committeemember Glover read a letter (**See Attachment 5**) in support of the placement of the Edu-Prize Charter School at the WAC submitted by Keasha Jackson, whose son attends the after-school program at the WAC.

Committeemember Glover advised that he attended some of the community meetings and believes that Edu-Prize has done their part to reach out and incorporate the activities that are important to community. He said that at one of the meetings Dr. Robershotte and Mr. Nelson discussed the importance of incorporating the history of the neighborhood into the Center. He stated that he supports the placement of Edu-Prize Charter School at the WAC and noted that if the City did not find a partner the Center would be closed.

Committeemember Somers commented that citizens have requested that the charter school fit into the culture as well as add value to the community. He said that some neighborhood gatherings may need to be moved to other community buildings. He remarked that education is a key value in "Building a Better Mesa" and that Edu-prize has the added value, therefore, he would be recommending that this item be forwarded on to the full Council.

Committeemember Somers concluded his comments by saying that a legal opinion would need to be provided with regards to whether an RFQ would be necessary. He also said that in the future there would need to be some discussions in regards to the aesthetics of the building.

Chairman Richins stated that he did not have any concerns with regards to the legal process as this item was made public. He remarked that the WAC should have been funded by the General Fund and not with CDBG dollars. He said that it did not make financial sense to operate the WAC as a stand-alone facility for one neighborhood and that nothing would have been gained through budget cuts. Chairman Richins concluded his comments by saying that he was impressed with what Edu-Prize Charter School has to offer.

In response to a question from Committeemember Somers, Mr. Heirshberg explained that the Jefferson facility serves 270 children and does not have classroom space.

Committeemember Somers remarked that there could be discussion in the future regarding a program such as Edu-Prize at the Jefferson facility.

It was moved by Committeemember Somers, seconded by Committeemember Glover, that item 2-a be forward on to the full Council for discussion.

Carried unanimously.

(Chairman Richins declared a recess at 8:50 a.m. The Committee meeting resumed at 8:55 a.m. at which time Committeemember Glover was excused from the remainder of the meeting.)

2-b. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on the Mesa Animal Control services and research related to feral cat management.

Assistant to the City Manager, Natalie Lewis, introduced Animal Control Supervisor, Diane Brady who was prepared to address the Committee. She said that today's presentation would provide a brief overview of the services provided by Animal Control, ordinances that have been updated, plans for the future and challenges related to feral cats.

Ms. Brady introduced Animal Control Specialist Andrea Arenas, who was present in the audience. She said that Mesa's Animal Control Unit has been protecting citizens and animals in the community since the 1950's. She advised that employees currently work Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. however, staff would soon begin providing services five days a week. **(See Page 3 of Attachment 6)**

Ms. Brady advised that Animal Control averages 700 contacts per week and that 30 of those contacts are related to feral cats. She said that their goal is for voluntary compliance and that only 2% of violations actually result in a citation. (See Page 4 of Attachment 6)

Ms. Brady briefly highlighted some ordinance changes related to animal noise disturbances and livestock and advised that the penalty was changed from a criminal to a civil violation. (See Page 5 of Attachment 6)

In response to a question from Chairman Richins, Ms. Brady explained that Animal Control does receive complaints related to livestock however, there have not been many violations and no citations have been issued.

Ms. Lewis provided a brief history of Animal Control and said that at one time Animal Control was part of the Mesa Police Department. She advised that the Animal Control Unit was developed to provide an enhanced level of service that from a police stand point would be considered a low level call. She noted that the Unit is currently under the oversight of the City Manager's Office.

Ms. Lewis said that Animal Control continues to search for ways to maximize its resources and provide a higher level of service. She advised that ways to provide Ms. Brady more time to work on grants and in the field are being explored. (See Page 6 of Attachment 6)

Ms. Lewis advised that some of the plans that Animal Control has for the future include:

- shift back to a five-day work week
- build on internal partnerships
- neighborhood outreach
- volunteer programs
- increase dispatch efficiencies
- attain grants
- community outreach
- research other tracking software options
- upgrade some of the trucks equipped with evaporative coolers

Ms. Lewis advised that feral cats are wild, untamed cats that are found in neighborhoods, parks and alleys throughout the City. She said the cats live in colonies and that many times these colonies have “keepers” who feed them. She said the problem with the colonies and the “keepers” is the lack of a responsible party. (See Page 9 of Attachment 6)

Ms. Lewis outlined some of the problems associated with feral cats as follows:

- run wild in neighborhoods
- cause traffic hazards
- create health and safety issues for residents and animals (feces, disease)
- scratch and bite people and other animals
- damage property
- cause dogs to bark and create noise disturbances
- no owner – no responsible party to hold accountable

Ms. Lewis said that at the request of Councilmember Glover staff researched how peer cities were handling this issue. She said it was determined that there was no “single fix” and that all cities struggle with this problem.

Ms. Lewis stated that domestic cats will roam and intermingle with the feral cats, increasing the feral cat population. She explained that for this reason community education with regards to spay and neuter programs for responsible cat owners is important.

Ms. Lewis advised that the City of Albuquerque partnered with different non-profits in the area and sterilized feral cats. She reported that over a two-year period of time Albuquerque experienced a 30% reduction in the number of cats that were brought into the shelters. She noted that the “trap/neuter/return” method is commonly used and is less expensive than euthanasia.

Ms. Lewis advised that staff is recommending that more effort be focused on sterilization to help reduce or limit the feral cat population. She also said that Ms. Brady would research spay and neuter programs used in other areas and attempt to seek a partnership with non-profits in the area.



In response to a question from Chairman Richins, Ms. Brady explained that some cities require people who feed the feral cats to obtain a permit from the City. She said in order to obtain the permit the individual must show that the cats have been sterilized.

Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo, a Mesa resident, addressed the Committee and thanked City staff for taking the time to address this quality of life issue. She advised that the "trap/neuter/release" program does not ease the concerns of the citizens. She explained that while the cats may not be able to breed, they are still eating and defecating on other people's property. She added that the individuals who feed the feral cats need to take responsibility. Ms. Villanueva-Saucedo suggested that some type of ordinance be explored as this is a problem experienced in cities across the country.

Committeemember Somers commented that feral cats are a citywide problem and a potential health hazard. He noted that the State classifies cats as a free-roaming animal.

Ms. Brady reported that the laws have been changed to say that the only wild animals that people can feed are birds and squirrels.

In response to a question from Chairman Richins, Ms. Brady explained that if the City, or an individual, takes a cat to Maricopa County Animal Control they will be charged \$96 to drop it off. She said that the County, by law, must hold the animal for three days before it can be euthanized. She stated that if a resident were to trap a cat it will cost them \$96 to leave the cat at the Animal Control facility. She added that the high cost of leaving a cat at the County Animal Control facility leads people to "dump" cats in other neighborhoods or in the desert.

Ms. Brady advised that the City had an arrangement with the County where only severely injured cats would be picked up. She explained that an injured cat would proceed directly to euthanasia and the cost would only be \$23. Ms. Brady reported that there have been circumstances where County Animal Control determined that the cat was not seriously injured, would hold the cat for 3 days before euthanizing and then charge the City the full \$96. She stated that the costs can add up depending on how many cats are taken to Animal Control in a month. She said that in a hoarding situation where there could be 80 cats that are probably sick the cost would be \$23 for each cat.

Discussion ensued regarding potential problems associated with introducing cats, which are not a native species, into the desert.

Committeemember Somers suggested that discussions be initiated with other cities, as well as the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, regarding the State's classification for cats. He stated that cats should either be classified as a pet where someone could be held accountable for their actions or as a free-roaming animal that can be trapped and released into the desert to "let nature do what nature does." Committeemember Somers remarked that the cats could survive and become part of the eco-system and could then be treated the same as any other evasive species.

Further discussion ensued regarding the State's classification of cats as a free-roaming animal.

Chairman Richins suggested that members of the Committee reach out to the League of Arizona Cities and Towns to develop a model ordinance that would provide some uniformity among the cities. He said that \$96 to drop off a feral cat is not cost effective and that a cost model should be developed. He added that a spay/neuter program for responsible cat owners is important however, he believe that the "trap/neuter/return" program would not be effective.

Committeemember Somers reiterated his previous statement regarding the State's classification for cats.

Ms. Brady advised that she has contacted several veterinarians in the community to see if they would be interested in a partnership however, none of those contacted were receptive to the idea.

Ms. Lewis said that staff will meet with Assistant to the City Manager Scott Butler to begin discussions with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns with regards to the possible development of an ordinance. She also said that staff would explore ways to reduce the feral cat population and hold individuals who feed them more accountable.

Chairman Richins commented that the County does need to have some type of cost recovery for their services.

Committeemember Somers advised that after the downturn in the economy more people let their pets loose and it has become a problem in many neighborhoods. He said that it will cost money to solve this problem and that the State, County, elected officials and residents will need to take a stand.

Ms. Lewis stated that staff would continue to look for ways to increase efficiency.

Chairman Richins thanked staff for their efforts.

### 3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Community & Cultural Development Committee meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Community & Cultural Development Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

bdw  
(attachments – 6)

# Washington Activity Center

Future Use Plan



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- Due to the economy and ongoing budget reductions within the City funding for the operation WAC was accomplished by the use of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the federal government in 2008
- 2009 City Council directs Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities staff to look for community partners to assist or take on programming of the WAC
- 2011/12 federal government reduced Mesa's CDBG share by nearly \$1 million
- 2011 City Council approves \$200,000 in CDBG funding for the operation of the WAC and informs staff that this is the last year funding will occur and a community partner must be found to assist with future programming of the WAC or it will be closed
- 2012/13 Mesa's CDBG grant dollars will be reduced again by the federal government – amount still unknown

# History

- West Mesa CDC connects Edu-Prize and Mesa Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities in early 2011
- Edu-Prize is the first charter school in Arizona founded in 1995
- Edu-Prize was the first charter school to receive an A+ certification from the State of Arizona
  - A+ certification recognizes educational excellence in student achievement
- The mission of the Edu-Prize community is to foster an environment of respect, responsibility, and love of learning
- Edu-Prize is committed to teaching the "whole child." Using their multiple intelligences, students will grow academically and socially. They will develop their innate giftedness through the use of a hands-on, developmentally appropriate, science-integrated curriculum
- Students will acquire knowledge and ability in mathematics and language arts creating life-long learners able to succeed in our technological society

## Edu-Prize

- Edu-Prize has shown a genuine interest in operating a charter school and community programs specifically serving the Washington Park Neighborhood
- A presentation was made to the community on June 2, 2011. That explained the highlights of the school and why they are interested in locating in the neighborhood
- On September 23<sup>rd</sup> Edu-Prize sponsored a movie night at Washington Park and again presented information about the school and their interest in the community.

## Community Involvement

- Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities is recommending to the City Council Community and Cultural Development Committee that a License Agreement between the City and Education be entered into
  - Tentative meeting date is scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am
- Effective date of license agreement would be July 1, 2012

## Future Use and Recommendation

- Maintaining the exterior of the building (including foundations, walls, and the roof)
- Repair/replace perimeter fencing and walls as necessary
- Repair/replace heating and cooling units, utility infrastructure and other property infrastructure such as main water pipes, delivery systems, and electrical service/delivery systems

## City of Mesa Responsibilities



- Edu-prize would be responsible for 100% of all utilities and all normal repairs and maintenance to the building and adjacent grounds
- Edu-Prize shall use the Center for the provision of charter school, after school, summer school and adult community resident programs

## Edu-Prize Responsibilities

- In return for Center use as a charter school Edu-Prize agrees to provide:
  - After School Programming for the Washington Park community
  - Extended Day Programming for the Washington Park community
  - Summer Programming for the Washington Park community
  - Adult community programs for the Washington Park community
    - Including but not limited to: Open recreation, summer camp recreation programs, physical outdoor activities, teen clubs, as well as other value added programs such as computer programs, dance, music, drama, bingo and sports activities
  - Additionally Edu-Prize shall provide programs for adults from the community such as computer/job training assistance, community service opportunities and other activities such as bingo nights, garden clubs etc
- Edu-Prize also agrees to work with organizations like the boy scouts, girl scouts and early childhood education programs to utilize space at the Center when not in conflict with their operations

## Edu-Prize Programming



# Questions?



January 25, 2012

Dear City of Mesa Mayor and Council Members,

Reflecting upon the past 25+ years, our neighborhood history and identity has repeatedly been met and compromised by institutions and parties that have been hired to support our efforts of community unification and involvement. We, the neighbors, continue to identify our issues, set our goals/visions, yet our voices are being ignored and instead lead through an endless maze of presentations. Notes and minutes are produced showing one-side perspective, others', not ours. Moreover, neighbors have made several requests to meet with our council member and unfortunately our requests have not been taken into account.

Nevertheless, we, Washington-Escobedo neighbors gather ourselves to work together and accomplish incredible goals. All the while, it seems our accomplishments are not acknowledged and, instead, we feel that in essence our community is being fooled around by a well-orchestrated group of entities and individuals who simply make it seem that they are going through the motions and legalities.

Anything our neighborhood does must always be facilitated by agencies or individuals who neither listen our voices, feed inaccurate information back to the our city council, nor share the same cultural and community values found therein.

We have pride, we have desire, and we have a vision. Unfortunately, what we lack are the financial means to support our vision. Although, we, as individuals, family, and community deal with many basic issues on a daily basis, we have demonstrated that we, Washington-Escobedo neighbors have the ability to take the lead to express what we believe our community needs and cherishes.

One of our greatest treasures is the Washington Activity Center. It is the foundation of our community. The community has repeatedly stated that envisions to keep WAC as a full time recreation center, providing meaningful programs that are beneficial to a multigenerational array of neighbors. Therefore, I am hereby requesting that this recommendation/vote to bring Edu Prize Carter School to occupy Washington Activity Center is put on hold until 1) our Quality of Life Plan is concluded, and 2) the corresponding City Department answers the following questions which we intended to ask our council should he had given us the opportunity to meet with him:

- A Request For Proposal is in place and include neighbors participation in the review and selection so we can identify a partner that can deliver our vision,
- Allow our community members partaking in the bidding process,
- Include, and hear, and honor our community input on any decisions related to Washington-Escobedo Historic Area.

Thank you for your time,

  
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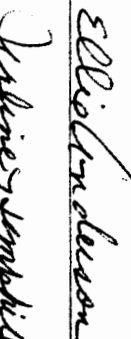
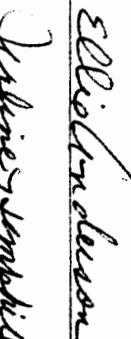
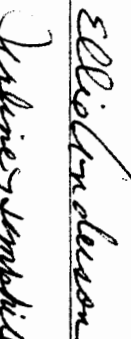
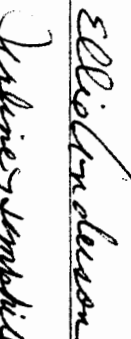
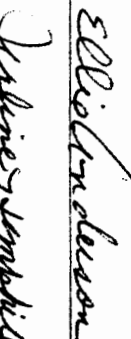
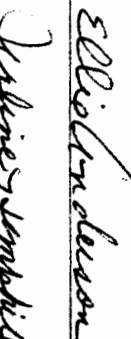
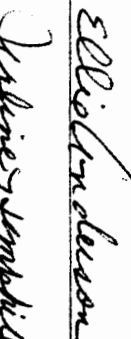
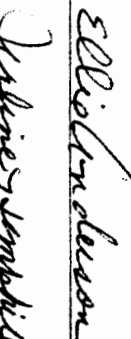
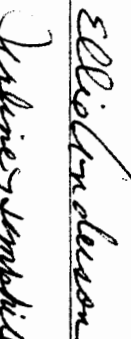
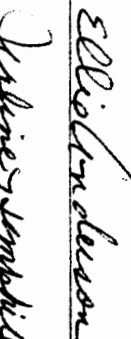
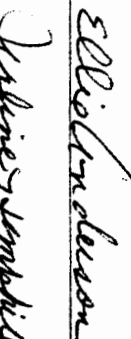
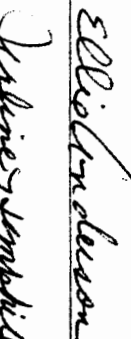
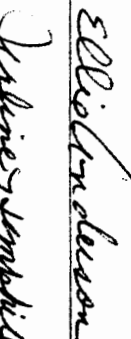
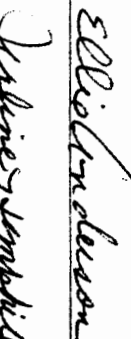
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NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 6 of     

Int Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Douglas Robertson	544 N. PIMA MESA, AZ	480-208-7429	<i>[Signature]</i>	1-18-2012
Mario Payan	540 N. PIMA MESA AZ	480-644-8214	Mario Payan	1-18-2012
Alicia Payan	540 N. PIMA MESA AZ		Alicia Payan	1-18-2012
Mayra Mendez	540 W. PIMA MESA AZ		Mayra Mendez	1-18-2012
Enayra Alarico	540 N. PIMA MESA AZ		Enayra Alarico	1-18-2012
Indira Garcia	524 N. PIMA MESA AZ	480-643-9253	Indira Garcia	1-18-2012
Andor Molinar	452 N. PIMA MESA AZ	480-233-4452	Andor Molinar	1-18-2012
Jelle Molinar	452 N. PIMA MESA AZ	(602) 472-2614	Jelle Molinar	1/18/12

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NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 17 of       

Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/fecha
Ellie Anderson	421 N Sunrise	480-890-1345		1-16-2012
Tev-Lille Hemphill	532 N Pima	480-949-0386		1-16-2012
Charles Morgan	142 E. 5th Place	480-709-9313		1-16-2012
Haron Davis	9529 E Cable Co St	480-728-5949		1-16-12
Richard Reveses	10904 E. SENECA AVE 85201	480-983-8611		1-16-12
Petricia Willis	541 N. Louis St 85201	480 844-1422		1/16/12
Jamian Person	551 N Freedom	520-678-1030		1/16/12
Linda Simmons	544 N. SIMONE	480-571-1088		1/16/12
Margiissincher	554 N. Pasadena	480 833 2316		1/16/12
Michael DeFreys	530 N. Pasadena	480 964 1334		1/16/12
Daniel Garcia	849 N. Pima	(480) 962-9581		1/18/12
Michael Garcia	549 N. Pima	(602) 390-3088		1/18/12
Maria Camara	549 N Pima	480-962-9581		1/18/12
Conrado Garcia	549 N Pima Mesa	480-862-5082		1-18-12



NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 18 of     

We the undersigned – residents and property owners of Washington-Escobedo Neighborhood, oppose the establishment of a charter school for WAC, located at 44 E. 5th Street, Mesa, AZ 85201. Moreover, request that WAC remains open serving the needs of Washington-Escobedo multigenerational residents.

Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
MARJANNE	1520 N RAUBORNA	NA	<i>Mary Anne Robinson</i>	1-14-12
Tammie Primes	174 Sirrine Rd	480 343-7309	<i>Tammie Primes</i>	1-15-12
Willie Poete	134 E. 5th Place	480-464-4319	<i>Willie Poete</i>	1-15-12
MIKE SESATE	555 N SIRRINE	480 <del>688-7667</del> 962-9432	<i>Mike Sesate</i>	1-15-12
Hector Sesate	843 S. SIRRINE	480 333-7035	<i>Hector Sesate</i>	1-15-12
ACTIVED SESATE	1016 E. Dolphin	480 644-1415	<i>Actived Sesate</i>	1/5/12
Virginia SESATE	3850 N SOUTH BUTTE Rd	480 888-9167	<i>Virginia Sesate</i>	1/15/12
Rachel Rodriguez	555 N. Sirrine St.	(480) 628-5593	<i>Rachel Rodriguez</i>	1-15/12
Rita Sesate	555 N. SIRRINE St	480 <sup>986</sup> 962 9432	<i>Rita Sesate</i>	1-15/12
Michelle Seate	555 N Sirrine St.	(480) 296-9498	<i>Michelle Seate</i>	1-15-12
Jose Lerya	545 N Sirrine St	480 655-9125	<i>Jose Lerya</i>	1-15-12
Kathryn Symmonds	575 N. Sirrine St	410-581-3049	<i>Kathryn Symmonds</i>	1-15-12
Doyle Wylie	401 N Sirrine St	480-646-6964	<i>Doyle Wylie</i>	1-15-12
MARIA E. BARRAZA	429 N. SIRRINE	480 307 7215	<i>Maria E. Barraza</i>	1-15-12

NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 14 of \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned – residents and property owners of Washington-Escobedo Neighborhood, oppose the establishment of a charter school for WAC, located at 44 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Mesa, AZ 85201. Moreover, request that WAC remains open serving the needs of Washington-Escobedo multigenerational residents.

Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Ruben Barraza	429 N. Surrine	480 255 5326	Ruben Barraza	1-15-12
ARMEN Rocha	554 N. Lewis St	480-890-2533	Armen Rocha	1-15-12
Maria Valencia	403 N. Lesueur st	(480) 406-03-08	[Signature]	1-15-12
Norma Galicia	264 N. Robson	480.205-2792	Norma Galicia	1-15-12
Norma Barrera	428 N. Surrine	480 593-2828	Norma Barrera	1-15-12
Fernando Paezish	432 N. Surrine	(480) 219 4402	Fernando Paezish	1-15-12
David Ayala	436 N. Surrine	480 326 8805	[Signature]	1-15-12
Dora Zuniga	444 N. Surrine	480 440 4567	[Signature]	1-15-12
Karen Livingston	510 N. Surrine	480 306 9731	Karen Livingston	1-15-12
Rafaela Villeta	574 N. Surrine	480 656 8448	Rafaela Villeta	1-15-12
Maria Suarez	528 N. Surrine	480-736-8272	Maria Suarez	1-15-12
Francis Valladares	528 N. Surrine	(480) 706 0260	[Signature]	1-15-12
Am. I. Andrade J.	528 N. Surrine	(480) 343 3048	Am. I. Andrade J.	1-15-12

NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 30 of \_\_\_\_\_

We the Undersigned – residents and property owners of Washington-Escobedo Neighborhood, oppose the establishment of a charter school for WAC, located at 44 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Mesa, AZ 85201. Moreover, request that WAC remains open serving the needs of Washington-Escobedo multigenerational residents.

Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/fecha
ZONTAN Iq MARE	530 N. PASADENA	480 964-1334	Zon Thomas Mares	1-15-2012
Luis ANVA	559 N Pasadena St	N/A	Luis P. Anva	1-15-2012
Lorene Fuller	530 N Pasadena	480-964-1334	Lorene Fuller	1-15-2012
Blordene Quick	530 N. PASADENA	480-964-1334	Blordene Quick	1-15-2012
Christian Suides	530 N. PASADENA	480-964-1334	Christian Suides	1-15-2012
Letisha Morris	530 N Pasadena	480-964-1334	Letisha Morris	1-15-2012
Abraham White	538 N Pasadena	480-304-0314	Abraham White	1-15-2012
Joseph Sanchez	567 N Pasadena	480 3434656	Joseph Sanchez	1-15-2012
Danni Sanchez	507 N Pasadena	480 217 3120	Danni Sanchez	1/15/12
Brandi Sanchez	559 N Pasadena	480 581 1476	Brandi Sanchez	1/15/12
Sandy Ornelas	559 N Pasadena	602-355-9074	Sandy Ornelas	1/15/12
Anthony Ramirez	519 N. Pasadena	480-332-9554	Anthony Ramirez	1/15/12
Richard Ramirez	547 N. Pasadena	(480) 352-5177	Richard Ramirez	1/15/12
Maria Mancinas	542 N. Lewis, Mesa 85201	(480) 835-0074	Maria Mancinas	1/15/12



NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 1 of     

We the Undersigned, friends and stakeholders of Washington-Escobedo Neighborhood, oppose the establishment of a charter school for WAC, located at 44 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Mesa, AZ 85201. Moreover, request that WAC remains open as community center serving the needs of Washington-Escobedo multigenerational residents.

Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Yeshonia Owens	214 N. Gilbert Rd	4352-9985	<i>Yeshonia Owens</i>	1/16/12
FAMELA GERRANS (MRS)	1445 E. Mountain Park Lane	4242-8203	<i>Fameila Gerrans (MRS)</i>	1-16-12
Debbie Lyles	2059 E. Elwood Pl	(602) 570-9146	<i>Debbie Lyles</i>	1-16-12
Samuel Sages	1565 S. Coconino Ct	480 577 4494	<i>Samuel Sages</i>	1-18-12
Darin Taylor	8614 W. Helen Lane	602 309 9404	<i>Darin Taylor</i>	1/16/12
Tamara Willis	1505 W. Country Club #118	480 227 5829	<i>Tamara Willis</i>	1/16/12
Angus W. W. Jr.	9444 E. Del Rio	480 233 9534	<i>Angus W. W. Jr.</i>	1-16-12
JENNETH LAURENCE	444 W 6th Pl	480 239-1234	<i>Jenneth Laurence</i>	1-16-12
NICKIE DANIELS	10802 E. Azalea Ave	480-251-2252	<i>Nickie Daniels</i>	1/16/12
Carol J. Reed	3355 E. Pueblo Ave	480-343-3253	<i>Carol J. Reed</i>	1/16/12
Tolym Sanchez	1721 E. Elton Apt 164	480 306 0443	<i>Tolym Sanchez</i>	1/16/12
Clarence Jones	1737 S. Elton Apt 104	480 480 5477	<i>Clarence Jones</i>	1/16/12
Terrina Howell	520 W. Mesa Dr. Apt 200	480 530 8277	<i>Terrina Howell</i>	1/16/12

NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 2 of     

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Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Rosalind Dyein	8543 E Forst Mesa	(702) 624-5595	<i>Rosalind Dyein</i>	1-16-12
Shatelle Dorgan		(520) 836-2570	<i>Shatelle Dorgan</i>	1-16-12
HELEN HUTCHINSON	536 W SWYME	490 270 0976	<i>Helen Hutchison</i>	1/16/12
JADE HUTCHINSON	536 N. SUPERINA	480 270 0980	<i>Jade Hutchison</i>	1/16/12
Randy Wesley	1314 N. PLATON	480-980-8415	<i>Randy Wesley</i>	1/16/12
Terhine Amphill	5324 Pima st	480-949-0386	<i>Terhine Amphill</i>	1/16/12
OSMINE LYONS		602-217-5682	<i>Osmine Lyons</i>	1-16-12
Quintin Miller		602-234-5246	<i>Quintin Miller</i>	01-16-12
Kera Owens	214 N. GILBERT RD #214	480 343 8533	<i>Kera Owens</i>	01/16/12
WAGNER DAWES	6910 E. POETA ST.	480.641.0888	<i>Wagner Dawes</i>	01/16/12
LARENNE HOPPER	419 2 WYOMING AVE	480 926-0583	<i>Larenne Hopper</i>	1/16/12
Shirley C. Ompion	5601 Grandderson	480-570-0002	<i>Shirley C. Ompion</i>	1/16/12
Xavier Humbird	211 S. Del Rancho	480-244-0971	<i>Xavier Humbird</i>	1/16/12

NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 3 of     

We the Undersigned, friends and stakeholders of Washington-Escobedo Neighborhood, oppose the establishment of a charter school for WAC, located at 44 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Mesa, AZ 85201. Moreover, request that WAC remains open as community center serving the needs of Washington-Escobedo multigenerational residents.

Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Tamara Coody	6006 Forge Ave	(002) 318-3051		1/16/12
Andrew R. Alexander	7255 MORRIS C. I. 742 S. Decillo DR AGUAITE JCT AZ 85120 531 N Lewis	480-827-4494		1/16/12
Viola D. Lambert	MESA AZ 85201	480-577-7956		1-16-12
Levella Jones	4316 Elber	480-809-0406		1-16-12
Anthony Breun	4612 W. BARBOST GLENDALE AZ	480-600-7109		1-16-2012
ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ		623 441 9654		1/16/12
William Pierson	354 W Pasadena	480-877-2346		1/16/12
Spencer Nielsen	554 N. Pasadena	480-882-8167		1-16-12
Quintin Henry	554 N. Pasadena	480-209-8792		1-16-12
Heather Cross	84414 S 41st Way, Phoenix AZ	(480) 991 8500		1-16-12





NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 5 of \_\_\_\_\_

We the Undersigned, friends and stakeholders of Washington-Escobedo Neighborhood, oppose the establishment of a charter school for WAC, located at 44 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Mesa, AZ 85201. Moreover, request that WAC remains open as community center serving the needs of Washington-Escobedo multigenerational residents.

Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Melissa Ami	1330 W. Broadway Rd C100 Tempe AZ 85282		Deborah Orrell	8/16/12
Zeph Wynn	1296 E. Robin Ln Gilbert AZ 85296	480-577-7978	Zeph Wynn	1-16-12
Aurelia Williams	7137 E. Aspen Av. P. 1122 W. Harvard St.	(480) 228-8269 602-403-8164	Aurelia Williams	1-16-12
Nora Nozic	8742-W-McAvoy Rd Chandler AZ 85225		Nora Nozic	1-16-12
Michael Taylor	704 55th March Dr		M. Taylor	1-16-12
Willard Pickett	7116 S Mill St 282	480-905-8156	Willard Pickett	1-16-12
James Brown	828 N 1095	683 498-3806	James Brown	12-19-11
Talibeh Mitchell	1219 N. Harvard St. Chandler, AZ 85225		Talibeh Mitchell	1-16-12
Rafrica Sullivan	7320 L Billings St #1037 Mesa AZ, 85207	480 857 8412	Rafrica Sullivan	1-16-12
Haley Wheat	296 west Palomino dr Chandler AZ 85224	480 2661132	Haley Wheat	1/16/12
Dre Johnson	111 N Gilbert Rd Mesa Az	(480) 608-9116	Dre Johnson	1/16/12
Charles Morgan	111 N Gilbert Rd Mesa, AZ	480 817 1333	Charles Morgan	1/16/12



NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 6 of     

We the Undersigned, friends and stakeholders of Washington-Escobedo Neighborhood, oppose the establishment of a charter school for WAC, located at 44 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Mesa, AZ 85201. Moreover, request that WAC remains open as community center serving the needs of Washington-Escobedo multigenerational residents.

Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Steve Ekeke	620 N. Rowan Cir	480-461-1044	<i>Steve Ekeke</i>	1-16-2012
Gavin Rogers	23411 E. Mallory Cir	480 834-8172	<i>Gavin Rogers</i>	1-16-2012
Laurie Nessel	1632 E. Cedar Tempe	480 968-5214	<i>Laurie Nessel</i>	1-16-2012
Dobbie Spidman	902 E. FAIBLE	480-220-1690	<i>Dobbie Spidman</i>	1-16-12
Larry Genalis	1862 W. Highland St <small>CHANDLER 85348</small>	480-786-0464	<i>Larry Genalis</i>	1-16-12
Debra M. Nusberg	1754 W. Coonino Dr.	1002-750-3315	<i>Debra M. Nusberg</i>	1-16-12
Joel Carroll	6507 S Hardy	480-897-9303	<i>Joel Carroll</i>	1-16-12
Reed Young	317 N. Seymour St	480-807-1690	<i>Reed Young</i>	1-16-12
Eddie Barber	125 <sup>th</sup> 2nd Ave	480-217-8423	<i>Eddie Barber</i>	1-15-12
Cody Smith		480-238-7924	<i>Cody Smith</i>	1-16-12
Darius Shelby	1032 E. Palca	480-628-9077	<i>Darius Shelby</i>	1-16-12
Ronda Brown	2925 E. Alvarado	480 228 595	<i>Ronda Brown</i>	1-16-12
Vernon Young	2513 E. Fox St <small>CHANDLER 85313</small>	(480) 734 9443	<i>Vernon Young</i>	1-16-12

NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 1 of     

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Print Name	Address/Direction	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Teya Washington		(480) 560-0920		1-16-12
Raymond B.	1313 W. Kessler	(602) 367-8291		1-16-12
Karina Hasell	41282 N. Vine Ave	480-985-5417		1-16-2012
Norman Doady	253 E. 2nd Ave	602-373-7632		1-16-12
Barbara Garcia	5107 Penryn	480-899-8138		1-16-12
Mary Gendle	350 W. Meade #414	480-890-2371		1-16-12
Simone Cote	PO BOX 21024	480-289-0522		1-16-12
Nessa Green	P.O. Box 1371 Mesa	480-395-7991		1-16-12
Mally A.	125 W 1st Mesa	480-664-1155		1-16-12
Sally Jones	PO Box 1472 Mesa	480-560-7069		1-16-12
Christina Garcia	4411 E. Bonanza St Mesa	NA		1-16-12
Jose Ballesteros	4411 E. Bonanza St Mesa	NA		1-16-12
TOMASA BERMUDEZ	650 W J Pkcs	(980) 833-1591		1-16-12







NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 17 of     

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Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Lilian Barraza	511 N. Lewis	480-277-1644	Lilian Barraza	1-16-12
Dayanala Barraza	511 N. Lewis	6023-2044837	Dayanala Barraza	1-16-12
Berenice Barraza	511 N. Lewis	602-502-2201	Berenice Barraza	1-16-12
Sessé Brown	2925 E. Calablero St.	480-228-9361	Mr Brown	1-16-12
Mikel Heredia	1915 S. 39th St	480 241 7815	Mikel Heredia	1/16/12
Brandon Luckert	1709 S 39th St	562-209-6799	Brandon Luckert	1/16/12
Ruth Walker	2401 <del>W</del> Southern <sup>533</sup>		Ruth Walker	1/16/12
Terril Lyons	4720 E Peach Tree	480-650-1210	Terril Lyons	1-16-12
Rachael Hill	1640 74 <sup>th</sup> St	480.659-7390	Rachael Hill	1-16-12
MATHIEU WHITE	2930 W REMONT RD	480-751-0553	Mathieu White	1-16-12
Nakia White	2930 W. Fremont Rd	480-584-0679	Nakia White	1-16-12
James Davis	6910 E Antia	480 399-1703	James Davis	1-16-12
Stephanie Duens	1604 E Verleria Dr	6033-387-3219	Stephanie Duens	1/16/12

NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC)



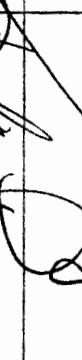
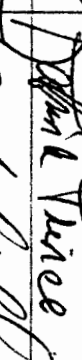

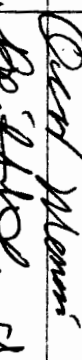
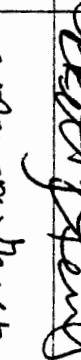
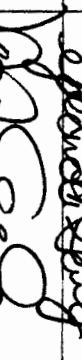

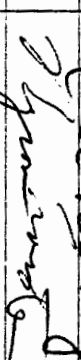

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Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Lynn Jackson	450 S. ACACIA	480-969-1581		1-17-12
Tim Jones	1515 S. Folsom Road	602-576-3144		1-17-12
Dustin Lewis		602-418-0724		1-7
Dominic Jimenez	5477 N.P. mesa	480-278-13521		1-7
Linda Mly	5477 N.P. mesa			1-7
TONI LEWIS	5477 N.P. mesa			1-7
DiethMeiwe	11232 E. QUINCY ST MESA, AZ	480-247-9469		1-17-12
Teach Jaime	5477 N.P. mesa	480-278-1354		
Yessenia Poyan	540 N Pima	480-644-8214		1-17-12
BARBARA HAYES YOUNG	317 N Seymour	480 807-1685		1-17-12
Caiton Cummings	9539 E IMPERIAL	480-255-4913		1-17-12
ALISA STONE	5639 E. NORWELL ST MESA, AZ 85215	480 249 2412		01.10.2012
Scottie Limbs	302 S. EVERETT ST CHANDLER AZ	480 2288627		1.14.2012



NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 16 of \_\_\_\_\_

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Print Name	Address/Direccion	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
ERIC FAIR	42467 W contains Ln	480-227-8778		1-16-12
Fosha Summary	8614 W. Heron Ln	619-8073096		1-16-12
yes for education for community				1-16-12
yes for education for community				1-16-12
Robert Garduno	yes for Education			1-16-12
Marilda Ponce	4418 Maple St #56	480-332-4696		1-16-12
NICKOLIS WHITE	2930 W. FREMONT RD 428301	480-217-3482		1-16-12
OSCAR MONCINS	549 N LEWIS MESA 428301	480-935-0077		1-16-12
Brittany Lewis	3355 E. Pueblo Ave Mesa, AZ 85204 580 N. MESA Dr Apt 300 Mesa, AZ 85201	480-330-5397 480-604-4600		1-14-12
wanda cooney				1-16-12
Mary Conely	1300 S Central dr	480-857-8016		1-16-12
Cierra Conerly	1360 S Central Dr	480-266-0270		1-16-12
Byron Forster	2005 E Chicago St	480-238-7522		1-16-12

NO TO A CHARTER SCHOOL OCCUPYING WASHINGTON ACTIVITY CENTER (WAC) Page 11 of     

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Print Name	Address/Direction	Phone #/Telefono	Signature	Date signed/Fecha
Beverly Bivens	2005 E. Grand St Chandler, AZ 85225	480-430-4332	Beverly Bivens	1/16/12
June K. McNeill	9260 W. Deer Palm Ave Mesa, AZ 85202	480-834-7518	June K. McNeill	1-16-12
Michael White	517 N Lewis St	602-716-8070	Michael White	1/16/12
Melvin J. Rhoads	7329 E. Lindber Ave Mesa, AZ 85209	480-233-4163	Melvin Rhoads, Jr.	1-16-12
Rev. Rudy Bennett	9522 S. Grandview Tempe, AZ	480-233-4163	Rev. Rudy Bennett	1/16/12
Michael D. THT	1505 E. RUSTAINA AVE Mesa, AZ 85202	480-233-4163	Michael D. THT	1-16-12
Johnny Thomas	617 S. Sprat St Phoenix		Johnny Thomas	1-16-12
Obalaye Mackie	P.O. Box 2589 Tulsa City		Obalaye Mackie	1-16-12
Victoria Holmes	888 St Paul		Victoria Holmes	1-16-12
Jenny Toliver	30 W. Carter Dr. Tempe, AZ	(480) 208-5377	Jenny Toliver	1-16-2012
Reidena Helms	3313 N. Hayden Way	480 891-1684	Reidena Helms	1-16-2012
Candice Thomas	643 W. Standage	480-835-0588	Candice Thomas	1-16-2012
Jos E. Noisegon	643 W. Standage	480-835-0588	Jos E. Noisegon	1-16-2012



January 20, 2012

Dear City of Mesa Councilmembers,

My name is Erica Mancinas and I am a college student at Fordham University in New York. However, my permanent address is 542 N. Lewis St, Mesa, AZ 85201. I am an invested member of the historic Washington- Escobedo neighborhood, and have been all my life. I am writing this letter to strongly oppose the City of Mesa selling or leasing the Washington Activity Center to Edu-Prize Charter School or any other entity that will limit full time access and comprehensive programs to our multigenerational Washington-Escobedo families.

So far, my life's story is one of hard-work, dedication, and sacrifices. Indeed, this is how I today find myself in one of the top universities in one of the greatest cities in the country. But, my heart will always be in Mesa, and more specifically, in the Washington-Escobedo community. After graduation, I intend to return to my community because I understand the unprecedented opportunity that lies within the younger generations of Washington-Escobedo. My community efficacy was born and later fostered by my experiences and observations on Lewis Street and at "The Center" (how members of the community affectionately refer to the Washington Activity Center).

But you see, distinguished Councilmembers, I am not an exception to the life path that many of my childhood friends in the community have taken. In fact we are a community of brilliant minds, hard-working parents, socially aware and widely resourceful individuals. Throughout my whole childhood, and to this day, The Center has been the heart of our community. It is a place of comfort, learning and growing. In reality, The Center is where the old generation of my parents meet the young generation of my peers and even younger still of my nephews. This is where stories of "the old days" are told, where a pick-up game of basketball consists of people of multiple ages, races, and backgrounds can be found, where a nice reprieve from the sometimes unbearably hot summer days can be spent (because I know personally, my family could not afford to run the A/C in our house twenty-four hours, so The Center was the ONLY place that I could turn to escape the 100+ temperatures).

The Center is filled with heritage, history, pride, and endless benefits to its members. It is for these, and many other reasons, that I oppose Edu-Prize's proposed involvement in my Center and my neighborhood. I strongly urge you to vote against Edu Prize's involvement in the Washington Activity Center on January 25, 2012 or any other meeting where this subject is being voted. Further, please ensure that the voices of the Washington-Escobedo families are being heard and honor.

Had I not had the access and experiences in The Center that I did, I would not have the community efficacy, heightened sense of civic engagement, and urgency to return to Mesa as an Economics Major from Fordham University in New York City. This, I am undoubtedly certain of. Taking this away this possibility from the young generation that currently resides in the Washington- Escobedo community is simply not right nor beneficial to Mesa's future.

A concerned member of the City of Mesa, and Resident of District 4,

Erica Mancinas, Age 20

January 24, 2012

Honorable City of Mesa Mayor and Council,

We're told from the time we are young to never forget where we came from. We're told this by parents, family members, and teachers because they have more years of life experience and they already know that life is not about what plans you make or what dreams you have. Rather, life happens with surprises: life is the turn the path you're on takes when you least expect it.

In my case, life happened when I was 18-years old and received the opportunity to study at a Colby College—a small private, liberal arts college, in Waterville, Maine—on almost a full scholarship. Almost four years later and with one semester of courses left until I become the first member of my family to obtain a bachelor's degree from an esteemed institution, I can't help but think back to where my journey began: the Washing Activity Center

I am well aware of Mesa's financial crunch at present time, but even still I must believe that there are options for my cherished Washington Activity Center: grants not yet investigated, projects not yet explored, resources not yet tapped into. As a faithful citizen of Mesa, whose family has lived in the city for nearly thirty years, who knows more about the city's unique nooks and crannies than I do about myself, I write to you and plea that you consider all that may be lost with the loss of WAC as it currently exists, a place for recreation of families and a place for children to develop and prepare for life.

The Washington Activity Center and its surrounding community have defined one another for time much longer than I've been alive, and I can't imagine my identity or personal development without it. I think of my neighbors as more like family than simply neighbors, and the WAC as our kitchen, rec room, dining room, living room, and backyard. So central is the WAC's position in all of our hearts that it defines us: when a neighborhood meeting needs to be held, we go to the WAC, when a community celebration is taking place, it takes place at the WAC, on a summer's evening when kids of the neighborhood go out to play, they go to the WAC. The WAC is the heart of our community and we, the neighbors, are the blood that flows through it and keep it beating. From the WAC we all begin, circulate throughout life—wherever it may take us, whomever we may meet along the way, whatever we may do—and it is back at the WAC where all of us eventually return.

To turn it into a charter school or shut it down is to cut a lifeline. For me, it would be the elimination of a very formative and foundational past. However, it would be worse for my younger neighbors, for shutting down the WAC as we know it, would mean the elimination a lifeline they have yet to obtain—the elimination of future full of opportunities and experiences that they don't yet know and may never know. The Washington Activity Center is as much a part of me as my name, without it I would not be who I am today, and I would not be where I am today. In the same way as I have authored a few works of writing, the city of Mesa authored me as work, and the opening line to the work of literature that is my life is: the Washington Activity Center. I never want to forget where I come from and what home represents, but if the WAC is lost, then where I come from will also be lost and will exist simply as a memory and nothing more. I ask that you please remember my aforementioned plea as you vote to turn WAC into a charter school or shutting it down. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Your proud, faithful Mesa Citizen

Oscar Mancinas

To whom it may concern,

My name is Malialisa Glover and currently my children attend the Washington Activity Center after school. This has been such a blessing for me and my children. I am a single mother of 3 children and work full-time. Their bus stop is right down the street so they are able to walk there after school. My daughter has been a part of the ballet classes on Tuesday and Thursday as well as the Girl Scouts. My son has also had a chance to engage himself in the different sports activities that they have. This has allowed him to open up and become more involved with organized sports. The Director and Employees of the Washington Activity Center have been amazing with the children. There is constant Supervision and they are good at notifying parents with any issues. The Center has been around for a long time and has become more of family than just a facility. This is a safe haven for a lot of the children in the neighborhood and should remain. This has allowed our children to stay out of trouble in an area that has high crime rates. Please do not let this Center go and keep it for our children, they are making a difference in each and every one of their lives. My children look forward to attending not just for the activities, but also the family events that they have. Thank you for your time and allowing me to express how important it is to keep The Washington Activity Center going. It has opened up doors for my children and kept them focused.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malialisa Glover', with a stylized flourish at the end.

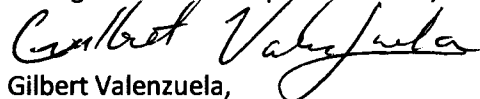
Malialisa Glover

January 24, 2012

City of Mesa Mayor and Council,

I would like to begin with what I can distinguish is by far one of my most cherished childhood memories, The Washington Activity Center. Growing up I certainly wasn't the cream of the crop when it came to showing outstanding behavior, or being the spoiled child who was raised like money grew on trees. But what I can definitely address is that I was blessed to be part of a community where I wasn't singled out definitively. As a child, being raised at the WAC taught me the importance of being a child, to spend my childhood out playing, exercising, and socializing with the other kids in the community. I honestly believe that if we do not explore our options in funding the WAC, that children will lose what most children have lost today, the inability to imagine, to spend their day outside instead of starrng mindlessly into a television screen, to be kids. WAC is more than some basketball courts, a field of grass, and some pool tables; it's a place were children who are neglected, can flourish and take positive steps. I can use my life as a testament to this, because If it wasn't for the WAC, I would have spent most of my after school hours at my home. My environment at home was not the best of places, there was violence, along with the abuse of drugs and alcohol, and that is why I dedicate my best childhood memories to the WAC. I can't wrap my mind around the concept of removing the WAC, and turning it into a Charter school, it just isn't right, and it would only divide the community, and remove the last opportunity the parents and children have to gather and socialize wit one another. I plea with all respect, that you take into consideration my thoughts and keep WAC as a recreational environment for the neighborhood.

With gratitude and expectation for your continued support,



Gilbert Valenzuela,  
College attendee, and Westwood Senior  
(480)-273-6638

## Barbara Woods

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**From:** Councilmember Glover  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 8:32 AM  
**To:** Barbara Woods  
**Subject:** Fwd: Washington Activity Center

Letter read into the record

Christopher Glover

Councilmember District 4  
City of Mesa

20 East Main Street Suite 750  
P.O. Box 1466  
Mesa, Arizona 85211-1466

480.644.3004 (tel)  
480.644.2175 (fax)

[Councilmember.Glover@mesaaz.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Glover@mesaaz.gov)

--I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be honorable, to be compassionate. It is, after all, to matter: to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Katie Brown <[Katie.Brown@mesaaz.gov](mailto:Katie.Brown@mesaaz.gov)>  
**Date:** January 24, 2012 2:34:27 PM MST  
**To:** Councilmember Glover <[Councilmember.Glover@MesaAZ.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Glover@MesaAZ.gov)>  
**Subject:** Washington Activity Center

Keasha Jackson

944 w. Main St #1228

Mesa AZ 85201

On Monday MLK JR. Day Parade and Festival, I was asked to sign a petition by Maria Mancinas, that stated "Stop Edu-Prize School from coming in the Washington Activity Center". I asked what the deal was and was told that the City of Mesa was closing the Washington Activity Center and was letting Edu-Prize School take it over. I was told that they were going to put a fence around the building and keep the neighborhood out, I was told that the kids in the community would not have anywhere to go and would be locked out, and I was told that we should stop Edu-Prize School from coming into the community by signing the petition and then



coming to the Council meeting next week to stand up against this happening. Have somewhere else she said! This was all told to me by the petitioner Maria Manacinas.

I choose not to sign the petition until I researched the information. I also noticed that there were alot of people that appeared not of age signing as well as people just signing because of the scare tactic that was expressed.

After research I found out that the City of Mesa was not closing the Washington Center down, but had a meeting last week and informed the community that their may not be a budget for that site next year and that they had a proposal from Edu- Prize School to lease the building to run a charter school there for the children in the community, as well as an after school program and some community adult events. Wow! that was not the information given to myself and those who did sign the petition driven by Maria Mancinas.

I did further research on Edu- Prize School and was very impressed that a School of such an excellent review would come into the Washington Activity neighborhood and educate the children! I think it is fantastic! and I support it happening! I believe it is what the children in that neighborhood would need, a chance to have a great school and teachers to give them a opportunity at a better education.

I sincerely hope that the other people that listened to Maria Mancinas and signed that petition would reconsider and do some research or ask questions from others for the facts and see that this is a great thing for the community of Washington Activity Center!

Oh yea, I forgot to mention that my son attends the Washington Activity Center after school programs and it has been good, but I am looking forward to enrolling him in the school when it opens at that site.

Sincerely,

Keasha Jackson

602-790-8566



# Animal Control Services

Community and Cultural Development Committee

January 25, 2012



# Today's Session



- Services today
- Ordinance review
- Organizational planning for the future
- Key Challenges
  - Feral cats





## Service & Action Today



- We serve and protect citizens and animals in the community through cooperative partnerships, education, and voluntary compliance or enforcement.
  - M-TH 7am – 6 pm
  - Field Officers – 3 (Field Response)
  - Specialist -1 (Dispatch)
  - Supervisor - 1 (Dispatch back up, community outreach, office mgt.)



# Service & Action Today

## Key Stats (Weekly Avg.)

- All contacts (700)
  - 60% end in call/info.
    - Feral cat inquiries (30)
  - 40% require field action
    - Dogs impounded (60)
    - Dogs at large calls (90)
    - Voluntary compliance (98%)
    - Violation/citation (2%)





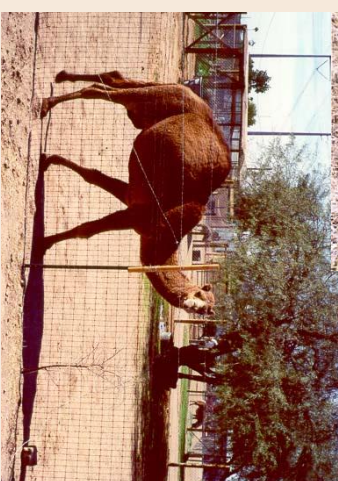
# Ordinance Highlights

## Animal Noise Disturbances (Ord. 6-12-2)

- From Criminal to Civil

## Livestock (Ord. 8-6-21)

- Reduced sq. ft. required
- Increased animal numbers allowed
- Affected mostly Lehi and other rural areas





# Planning for the Future

- **Goals:**
  - Customer service-driven model
    - Provide enhanced service on what is typically deemed a low-priority call.
    - Provide higher level of service in most cost-efficient manner.
  - Keeping a “can do” focus.
  - Maximizing resources through efficiencies & innovation.
    - From reactive to proactive, i.e. more time for community education, seeking grants, perhaps creating volunteer program.





## Planning for the Future

- Shift back to five days per week service in Feb. 2012.
- Internal partnerships, assistance
  - Neighborhood Outreach/Volunteers
  - Dispatch efficiencies
  - Grants attainment & community outreach
- Tracking software options
- Equipment upgrades, needs





# Key Challenge— Feral Cats



## What are feral cats?

- Wild, untamed cats
- Found in neighborhoods, commercial or industrial areas, parks, alleys – anywhere
- Many times, they gather in colonies
- Colonies sometimes have “keepers”
- No claimed owner– no responsible party to hold accountable



## What is problem with feral cats?

- Run wild in neighborhoods
- Can cause traffic hazards
- Create health and safety issues for residents and other animals
  - Feces, disease
- Scratch, bite people, other animals
- Damage property
- Cause dogs to bark and create noise disturbances
- No owner— no responsible party to hold accountable



# Preliminary Benchmarking



- ARIZONA:**
- Apache Junction, Bullhead City, Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tucson, Yuma

- NATIONWIDE:**
- Albuquerque, NM; Charlotte, NC; Las Vegas, NV; Long Beach, CA; Santa Barbara, CA; San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA; San Antonio, TX.



# Preliminary Benchmarking

## What we learned

- Not many cities have codes specific to feral cats
  - All cities struggle: balance expectations, costs, community values, no single fix
- Community education & partnerships continue to be important.
- Focus on spay/neutering and responsible cat ownership also important.
  - Proof spay/neutering before licensing
  - Spay/neutering by 3-4 mos. of age
- Trap, neuter and return (TNR) in place of euthanasia (can be less costly)





## Next Step RECOMMENDATION

- Focused effort on spay/neutering -- key to reducing and/or limiting growth of feral cat population.
- Information and ideas for how states, counties, communities are implementing spay/neuter programs:
  - Community education
  - Partnering or subsidizing agencies to hold clinics
  - Colony permit w/sterilization
  - Seek grants, community donations, vouchers
  - Work with volunteers



# Animal Control Services Questions & Discussion

Community and Cultural Development Committee  
January 25, 2012