

**CITY OF PALMER
ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 14-048**

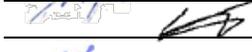
Subject: Authorize a \$1500 Donation to the Downtown Merchants Association to Support the Midsummer Garden & Art Faire

Agenda of: June 24, 2014

Authorize

Council Action: _____

Approved for presentation by:

City Manager	<u></u>
City Attorney	<u></u>
City Clerk	<u></u>

Certification of Funds:

Total amount of funds listed in legislation:	\$ <u>1,500</u>
This legislation (√):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Has no fiscal impact	
Creates:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A negative fiscal impact in the amount of:	\$ <u>1,500</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> A positive fiscal impact in the amount of:	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Funds are budgeted.	
Funds are budgeted from this (these) line item(s):	
a) ➤	\$ _____
b) ➤	\$ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Funds are not budgeted.	
Budget amendment required in the total amount of:	\$ <u>5,009.24</u>
Affected line item(s):	
➤ 01-02-10-6069	\$ <u>1,500</u>
➤	\$ _____
a) Funds originally budgeted in line item :	\$ <u>7,000</u>
Funds previously spent on donations:	\$ <u>4,660</u>
Funds spent on the City Manager search:	\$ <u>4,849.24</u>
Radio Free Palmer Contract:	\$ <u>2,500</u>
Difference in budgeted funds:	\$ <u><5,009.24> *</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> General fund unassigned balance (after budget modification)	\$ <u>1,361,299.76</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Enterprise unrestricted net position (after budget modification)	\$ _____
Director of Finance signature certifying funds:	<u></u>

*As previously discussed, funds spent on the city manager search will be included in an upcoming budget modification.

Summary statement: Action memorandum 14-048 is moved to the council for consideration at the written request of Council Members Combs and DeVries.

Administration recommendation: Approve action memorandum 14-048.

May 13, 2014

Palmer City Council

Please accept the following request on behalf of the volunteers who have stepped up to do the work of planning, advertising and hosting the fifth annual Mid-Summer Garden and Art Fair, slated for July 12th in downtown Palmer. I am hereby asking the City of Palmer for a donation in the amount of \$1,500 in support of this worthy and well attended event.

You will recall the Mid-Summer Garden and Art Fair was originally held at the Alaska State Fairgrounds. In 2010 the event was cancelled in late May, much to the dismay of the gardeners, commercial greenhouse owners, artists and craftsmen that had come to depend on it as part of their revenue.

That first year, and again in 2011 and 2012 the event was resurrected and cultivated by Mary Jo Parks, Chairman of the Special Santa Program, and was moved to the quad/green between the Palmer Public Library and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough building. Its success was notable and the impact on local economy positive.

Since then management of the event has moved to the Palmer Arts Council and the Palmer Economic Development Authority, and this year it will be under the umbrella of the Palmer Museum and Visitors Center, in conjunction with the Palmer Arts Council and an excellent assortment of dedicated volunteers.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to attend the Mid-Summer Garden and Art Faire, it is a visual feast with bright tents, flowers, a truly amazing and unduplicated array of vendors – many of whom do no other shows - presenting their creations only once a year, and creating a demand that is exciting and results in an excellent turnout. We have a fabulous music venue that lasts into the evening, as well as food and entertainment. It is the highlight of the season for many, and draws people from far and near.

The volunteers are amply aware of the need to insure traffic flow to the local businesses and have a scavenger hunt as well as a Rhubarb Rumble, which is a contest for best rhubarb recipe, among all of the local chefs and caterers. Last year's winner, John Christiansen owner of Pizza Delphi, wowed the crowd with a rhubarb chili that included locally grown beets and carrots as well as the rhubarb. The chili was so popular he has continued to serve it as a special on his menu, and made gallons of it for Bushes Bunches, who served it at the fair.

We have some of the same folks at the table that brought this event to town in 2010, and each year we gain new volunteers. It is our sincere hope that you will be able to support this event with your financial contribution as well as planning to attend.

Sincerely,

Denise Statz, Volunteer

