



Report to City Council

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Marshall Eyerman, Chief Financial Officer

AGENDA DATE: October 17, 2017

TITLE: HISTORICAL PRESERVATION UPDATE

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommendation:

1. Receive and file the background information on the City's historical assets of the fire engine and Red Cross building.
2. Approve the designated use and restriction of the City's Cultural Preservation Fund as set forth in the staff report.

SUMMARY

This report has been prepared to provide a historical summary on the City's historical fire engine, Red Cross Building and the City's Cultural Preservation Fund.

DISCUSSION

Antique Fire Engine

The City's historical 1948 Dodge Fire Engine's (Engine) history goes back to its initial days of serving both March Air Force Base (MAFB) and the area that is now the City of Moreno Valley. The Engine was initially acquired for use by MAFB and later used by the Sunnymead Volunteer Fire Department until around 1970 when it was taken out of service and stored at MAFB. Around 1983, Vi Hamner then President of the Moreno Valley Historical Society and the Cultural Preservation Advisory Committee, learned that MAFB wanted to donate the Engine. Through some coordinated efforts, the fire engine was stored at the City's Yard, which occurred following the incorporation of the City.

Over the years there had been some questions over the ownership of the Engine. In order to determine ownership, an initial request was made in 1995 by the City to the

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a title search of the then current registered owner of the Engine. As no ownership records were received, a memo was sent in November 2002 from the Interim Fire Chief to the City Manager wherein it was communicated that there was a need for the City to request registration and title of the Engine in order to make it available for parades and for Fire Department functions, including training activities for the Moreno Valley Explorer Post 946.

In January of 2003, following an additional request to the DMV the Fire Captain at Station 6 received information on the last registered owner of the fire engine. The owner was identified as April and Robert Purdy, 1st Air Force from Perris CA. The Fire Department staff at that time was directed to contact the last registered owner, but were unsuccessful in locating the prior owner. Following proper DMV requirements, acquisition of the Engine by the City occurred on April 22, 2003 when the City acquired legal title and registration.

Over the years, the Engine has been almost completely restored to its original condition through the personal efforts and financial support of Fire Department staff. General cleaning of the Engine continues to be routinely performed by the Fire Department staff and Explorers. Due to years of sweat equity by Fire Department staff, the Fire Department has requested the City maintain continued ownership of the Engine, but allow for the display of and parade usage of the Engine to continue to highlight the history of the City. The Moreno Valley Historical Society has requested that the Fire Engine be put on display at a future museum.

The Engine has been stored at Fire Station 6 (Towngate) over the past couple years and the Fire Department plans to relocate the Engine to the Moreno Beach Fire Station 58. This location serves two Fire Explorer Posts that can continue to support the maintenance and cleaning of the Engine.

The Engine currently requires some mechanical work to get it back into full running condition. To provide these repairs, the Fire Department is wishing to raise funds to perform the necessary work and to have the Engine running for future parades.

American Red Cross Building

Constructed in approximately 1943, the American Red Cross Building located on an approximately 0.6 acre site at the corner of Riverside Drive and Short Street, south of N Street and west of 3rd Street at March Field Park on March Air Force Base (MAFB) is located adjacent to the registered locally designated historical March Field Historic District site. The World War II era building was used by local Red Cross Volunteers to serve MAFB soldiers. Following the World War II, the building continued to be utilized by MAFB for various purposes until the building became abandoned and left to fall into disrepair.

In 1995, the City's Community Services District ("CSD") made an application to the National Park Service for a public benefit transfer of Federal Surplus Properties at March Air Force Base for public park/recreational purposes. Among the facilities listed

in the application was the Red Cross building. On November 6, 1995, the CSD's application was approved by the National Park Service. A portion of March Air Force Base closed as a military installation on March 31, 1996 and on April 1, 1996, the CSD received an interim lease for all applied for facilities, including the Red Cross building.

In 1999, the City entered into a sublease with the Moreno Valley Museum Foundation (MVMF) for a term of 5 years with the option to extend the term for an additional three, five year extensions. According to the sublease, the Moreno Valley Museum Foundation was to be responsible for all costs to renovate the facility and provide for on-going maintenance and operating costs associated with the Red Cross building. No record has been located to demonstrate that the tenant lease was renewed after the first 5 year term and it appears that the MVMF may no longer be in existence. Present day observations of the facility find that no renovations appear to have been completed by the MVMF.

In 2007, with the approval of Resolution CSD No. 2007-05, a Resolution of the Moreno Valley Community Services District Approving the Property Transfer of Parcel I-2 at the Former March Air Force Base Under Early Transfer Authority, the CSD approved the property transfer and acquired ownership of the Red Cross building property. The deed for March Field Park designates the Red Cross Building as a historic structure and requires written permission from the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or its designated representative for any actions that would affect the integrity or appearance of the facility.

The Red Cross building is in dire shape, in need of asbestos and lead paint remediation along with a substantial list of other structural repairs and ADA improvements for the restrooms, doors, etc. In 2016, a quote was obtained for hazardous contaminate remediation in the amount of \$87,299. Additional costs would need to be incurred for remodeling, utility connections, permit fees, etc. Those costs are conservatively estimated at an additional \$100,000 to \$250,000.

Based on recent requests, the City has examined the use of parks funds to rehabilitate the building and to develop a new park, but due to the location of the property outside of the City's boundaries and Federal land use restrictions, current parks funding may not be used. The City shall continue to seek grant or endowment funding for remediation of the building and will continue to work with the Environmental and Cultural Preservation Board and the Historical Society for potential future uses of the site, including potentially a future museum for the City. With any potential successful conversion to a museum, the site may also house the City's historic fire engine.

Cultural Preservation Fund

The City has previously established a Cultural Preservation Fund of approximately \$120,000 primarily from the prior sale of the Old Moreno School building. These funds are currently held in trust to be used for the establishment of a future museum or the display of Moreno Valley historical treasures within the City. The City shall continue to

review the use of these funds through the Environmental and Historical Preservation Board.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Recommended Actions to receive and file the background information on the City's historical assets and designated use and restrictions of the City's Cultural Preservation Fund as set forth in this staff report. *This will establish a record of the City's historical assets and preserve the funding designation for use of the City's Cultural Preservation Fund.*
2. Do not approve the Recommended Actions to receive and file the background information on the City's historical assets and designated use and restrictions of the City's Cultural Preservation Fund as set forth in this staff report. *This alternative will not allow establishment of the historical asset record nor insure preservation of the funding designation for use of the City's Cultural Preservation Fund.*

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact based on the current actions presented in the staff report.

NOTIFICATION

N/A

PREPARATION OF STAFF REPORT

Prepared By:
Sharon Goodale-Sharp
Management Analyst

Department Head Approval:
Marshall E. Eyerman
Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

CITY COUNCIL GOALS

Community Image, Neighborhood Pride and Cleanliness. Promote a sense of community pride and foster an excellent image about our City by developing and executing programs which will result in quality development, enhanced neighborhood preservation efforts, including home rehabilitation and neighborhood restoration.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Economic Development
2. Public Safety
3. Library
4. Infrastructure
5. Beautification, Community Engagement, and Quality of Life
6. Youth Programs

ATTACHMENTS

None

APPROVALS

DRAFT