



MEMORANDUM

To: Finance Committee

From: Rich Olson, City Manager

Date: January 21, 2014

Re: Consideration – Community Support Grant Application Received from the COA Foundation on behalf of Men of Excellence and Distinction in the Albemarle (MEDIA)

BACKGROUND:

The Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget included an appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 for Community Support Grant Awards. The City Council awarded \$47,600 of this amount and \$2,400 was retained to consider other applications received during the fiscal year. To date, none of the unappropriated funds have been awarded.

ANALYSIS:

During the Finance Committee meeting of January 8, 2014, staff presented a Community Support Grant Application received from Men of Excellence and Distinction in the Albemarle (MEDIA) in the amount of \$1,000. Concerns were expressed regarding the stated purpose of the application – “to transform the lives of college-level men of color” – as limiting services to one particular group of individuals based on the color of their skin. It was noted by the Finance Committee that the services offered by MEDIA are worthy of consideration; and the Committee directed staff to discuss these concerns with the applicant to determine if the application could be amended.

Staff’s subsequent conversation with the applicant revealed that MEDIA does in fact serve all men; and the application has been amended to reflect that fact. In addition, it was learned that the funding should actually be paid to the College of the Albemarle Foundation, who acts as the fiscal agent for MEDIA’s funding. That change has also been reflected in the application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, recommend that the City Council approve a Community Support Grant award in the amount of \$1,000 for the College of the Albemarle Foundation on behalf of Men of Excellence and Distinction in the Albemarle.