MEMORANDUM

To: Finance Committee

From: Rich Olson, City Manager

Date: April 8, 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 was 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.

The Finance Committee recommended approval to the City Council of this application during the January 27, 2014 City Council meeting. However, the Council requested that the applicant do a presentation before the Finance Committee as other Community Support grantees have been required to do. Due to staffing conflicts at COA, staff has been unable to schedule a time for their presentation until now.

Maenecia Cole and Steven Woodburn will do a presentation supporting the application and answer any questions the Finance Committee may have during the April 11, 2014 Finance Committee meeting.

City Manager's Office
P. O. Box 347 • 306 E. Colonial Avenue • Elizabeth City, NC 27907
Phone: 252-337-6864 • Facsimile: 252-335-2503

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; and adopt the required budget amendment as presented.

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BUDGET AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014:

SECTION I. **That the Community Support Grant (106620.6000) be decreased by $1,000 and the Albemarle Foundation - MEDIA (106620.5885) be increased by $1,000.**

(To record community support grant to Albemarle Foundation - MEDIA in the amount of $1,000.)

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

Vivian White, NCCMC
City Clerk