



---

# MEMORANDUM

---

**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Rich Olson, City Manager

**Date:** July 19, 2019

**Subj:** Consideration – Hold a Public Hearing for Reimbursement to the Police Athletic League for a Grant Issued to the AAU Organization NC Blazers

---

***BACKGROUND:***

During the June 24, 2019 City Council meeting, Northeastern Basketball Coach Antonio Moore appeared before the City Council requesting funding for his AAU basketball team. On multiple occasions, City staff encouraged him to apply for a Community Support Grant. However, he elected not to follow the process the City Council had established. Coach Moore's appearance before the City Council placed the Council in an awkward position. Pursuant to G.S. §160A-20, prior to the City Council providing public funds to any organization, a public hearing is required. Since the AAU tournament was being held during the first part of July, there was inadequate time to call for a public hearing and provide the proper notice period. Staff worked with the Police Athletic League (PAL), a non-profit, to provide funding for Coach Moore to meet his timeframe. During the June 24, 2019 City Council meeting, the City Council called for a public hearing to provide funding to the PAL organization as reimbursement for the funds they advanced Coach Moore.

***ANALYSIS:***

The City has provided funding to Coach Moore's AAU Team for over a decade. The amount has varied from a straight dollar amount to \$100 per player, which it has been for a number of years. PAL provided Coach Moore with \$2,100. The Public Hearing scheduled for July 22, 2019, is to provide reimbursement for the \$2,100 that the Police Athletic League (PAL) advanced Coach Moore. It is poor public policy for the City Council to keep bailing out groups who have failed to do the proper planning. Coach Moore refused staff's help once the grant process was opened for applications. Furthermore, staff approached Coach Moore once again in March and he failed to respond. By allowing out-of-cycle grants, the City Council will receive multiple requests from groups to provide funding. The City Council's Community Support Grants were created for the City Council to weigh requests from all

needy groups and prioritize funding. It is important to remember that local governments have strict rules for giving money to the community; they must take precaution to ensure that all funding issued for non-profits and private entities satisfy the public purpose requirements for monetary distribution or potentially risk legal repercussions.

***FINANCIAL:***

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their July 18, 2019 meeting. Upon motion made by Councilman Adkins, seconded by Mayor Parker, the Committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

***AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING:***

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, reimburse the Police Athletic League \$2,100 for their use of funds to cover a grant paid to Antonio Moore's AAU team and adopt the attached budget amendment.



## 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 fiscal year ending June 30, 2020:

**SECTION I.** That the General Fund Non-Departmental Community Support Grants (10-6620-6000) be decreased by \$2,100,

And that the General Fund Non-Departmental National Association Police Athletic League, Inc. (10-6620-5892) will be increased by \$2,100.

(This amendment will authorize reimbursement to the National Association Police Athletic League, Inc. for the funds paid to the NC Blazers basketball team for tournament travel.)

ADOPTED, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2019.

---

Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

*Attest:*

---

April Onley  
Interim City Clerk