



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1834

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title:	Motion to approve a change to the City's financial support for the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Industrial Arts Scholarship Program
Presenter(s):	Stacey Ekstrom, St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Rita Tungare, Director of Community & Economic Development

Please check appropriate box:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City Council (2/3/14)
Estimated Cost:	N/A	Budgeted:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X <input type="checkbox"/> NO

If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

Executive Summary:

In December 2012, former Director Chris Aiston presented to the Council for endorsement a joint initiative between the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce and the City's Economic Development Department to develop a college scholarship program, namely the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce Council for Industry Industrial Arts Scholarship program. Funding support for this program was approved by City Council as part of the FY 13-14 budget process. The intent was to awards two (2) \$1,250 scholarships to graduating seniors, one each to St. Charles North High School and St. Charles East High School. The purpose of the scholarship is to assist in the development of our local workforce, particularly as it relates to meeting employment needs of the community's industrial sector through assistance with tuition costs towards education in technical programs offered at Elgin Community College.

The funding structure approved by City Council contemplated that the City would fund the program 100 % for the academic year 2013-14 and thereafter the program would be funded on a 50/50 basis between the City and the Chamber of Commerce. During academic year 2013-14, only one recipient, Dustin Baldwin of St. Charles North was selected for the scholarship. Since only 50% of the total committed amount of \$2,500 for 2013-14 was spent, the Chamber is requesting that the City roll forward the remaining \$1,250 towards funding the Chamber's 50% share for the 2014-15 academic year.

Additionally, the Chamber is requesting consideration for the City to continue funding 100% of the program moving forward, in the event they cannot find sponsorship for their 50% share. Alternatively, the program could be modified to only fund one recipient with the City's share being limited to \$1,250 as originally committed, in the event the Chamber has difficulty funding their share. Stacey Ekstrom, President & CEO of the Chamber of Commerce has indicated that the Chamber will continue to use their best efforts to seek funding for their 50% share.

Stacey Ekstrom will be present to provide an update on the program and present their request for a change in the City's financial support.

Attachments: *(please list)*

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

Staff recommends allocating the unused \$1,250 towards funding the program for the 2014-15 academic year, resulting in the City funding the program 100% for that academic year. Staff is seeking direction from the City Council for future years as to whether the City's financial support should remain at \$1,250 as originally committed or should be increased to \$2,500 in the event the Chamber is unable to fund their share.

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Agenda Item Number: IB