



## GRIC Commemorates 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Rights Day

### GRIN Staff

Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Indian Community marked the 20th anniversary of the historic Water Rights Settlement Act of 2004 on Dec. 10, at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass. This year's Water Rights Day celebration brought together tribal leaders, elders, veterans, and youth, along with key figures who played critical roles in achieving the landmark agreement.

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis honored the legacy of tribal lead-

ers who worked for decades to reclaim the Community's water rights and set the course for its future. "This was not just about water—it was about justice," he said. Gov. Lewis paid tribute to his late father, Rodney Lewis, a principal architect of the settlement, describing him as a "special water warrior for our people" whose perseverance and vision paved the way for success.

"Just because we did it, does not mean it wasn't impossible to do when we set out," said Gov. Lewis.

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs

joined the celebration, proclaiming Dec. 10, as Gila River Indian Community Water Rights Day statewide, honoring the GRIC's achievements and ongoing leadership in water stewardship. The event also featured prominent leaders who have helped establish and maintain the Community's water rights, including former U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl, former Community Gov. Richard Narcia, and Tom Buschatzke, Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

Lt. Gov. Regina Antone welcomed attendees, emphasizing the importance of uniting elders, veterans, and youth to celebrate the Community's progress.

"This day reminds us of where we came from, what we have achieved, and the journey that still lies ahead," she said.

The 2004 settlement secured 653,500 acre-feet of water annually, one of the largest tribal water settlements in U.S. history. Gov. Lewis highlighted its transformative impact, enabling the Community to rebuild its agricultural economy, restore its cultural connection to water, and develop sustainable infrastructure. Projects



Jiivik Siiki, carries the ground filled with water collected from the Gila River, presents to Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis at the Water Rights Day Celebration on Dec. 10. Photo Courtesy of Joseph Morales

like the MAR 5 groundwater recharge facility and the innovative solar-over-canals project would not have happened without the 2004 settlement, Lewis said.

President Joe Biden, who visited Gila River in October, sent a letter to the Community to honor the day. "The lands and waters stewarded by Tribal Nations

carry so much promise: helping protect us against climate change, providing the clean air we breathe and clean water we drink, and sustaining the livelihoods of ranchers, outfitters, guides, and rural and Indigenous communities," Biden wrote. "The Arizona

*Continued on Page 8*



Traditional singers and dancers during the Water Rights Day celebration. Emma Hughes/GRIN

## Skyline Gila River Mustangs Win CAA State Championship

### Emma Hughes

Gila River Indian News

The Skyline Gila River football team has defied the odds, going from a fledgling program to state champions in just their second year. With grit, determination, and an unbreakable team spirit, the Skyline Mustangs have captured the Canyon Athletic Association – Division 1 state title in a win against the Harvest Prep-Yuma Eagles 36-0.

When Skyline Gila River first introduced its tackle football program in 2022, expectations were modest. The team, composed of a mix of underclassmen and first-time players, struggled to find their rhythm during their inaugural season.

"I have one kid that played prior but none of my student athletes had ever played tackle football," said Head Coach Darius Turner. "We took our lumps and bruises last year."

"We managed to get two wins on the record and we won our first ever home game last year," said Turner. "They showed up, they won, they saw that they can do it. We spent countless hours in the



Skyline Gila River Mustangs win state championship game on Nov. 23 Photo Courtesy of Orlando Acosta

Summer, and with hard work and dedication, they saw everything getting better."

Over the offseason, the team doubled down on their efforts. Early-morning and weekend workouts, practices, and a

renewed focus on fundamentals turned a group of hopeful players into a finely tuned machine.

"In the beginning, it was challenging because I didn't really understand the concept of football and the teamwork, and then

later on, I figured out that everyone plays a part in the team and that we all need to work together to accomplish what we want," said Charles Millard III, District 4, senior student.

"We face our adversities and

our challenges in life, but coach always tells us 'keep your head up, keep pushing,'" said Amear Hawkins, senior student. "I feel like that was a big thing that helped us through this season, and realizing what we can accomplish in the long run."

On Nov. 23, the Mustangs faced off against the Eagles in the state championship. The Mustangs dominated the game, showcasing an unrelenting defense and an explosive offense. The final score, 36-0 marked a decisive victory and a historic moment for the school.

"It was an amazing time playing football," said Phillip Rocha, District 5, senior student. "It was definitely hard, but I know I was able to do it, and I know that I had my teammates there to push me, and I know that us doing it together, it was like a family, and it pushed all of us through."

In addition to the team earning the championship trophy, Rocha received the Offense Player of the Year award and team mate Hawkins received the Defense

*Continued on Page 6*

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Please remember that all smoking is prohibited at all Gila River Health Care campus locations.

[grhc.org](http://grhc.org)

*In unison with the Gila River Indian Community, Gila River Health Care has designated December 10th as a day to honor the historic 2004 Water Rights Settlement Act signed by President George W. Bush. This year marks its 20th Anniversary.*

*The Community's determined fight to reclaim their rightful water rights reflects the essential role that water plays in the lives of the Akimel O'otham and Pee-Posh Communities. The phrase "Water is life" is a lesson passed down through generations.*



## GET YOUR FLU SHOT

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18	District 6 by Alexander Health Center	Appointment Only
19	District 1 Multipurpose Building	8:30 am - Noon
20	District 2 Multipurpose Building	1 pm - 3:30 pm
24		CLOSED
25		CLOSED
26		CLOSED
31		CLOSED

December 2024						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Holiday Closures

As the end of the year approaches, we wanted to let you know about our upcoming closures.

### CHRISTMAS DAY

**December 25**

NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS WILL RESUME THURSDAY, 12/26/24.

### NEW YEARS DAY

**January 1**

NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS WILL RESUME THURSDAY, 1/2/25.

For any information on services open during the holiday, please call Gila River Health Care's main line (520) 562-3321.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

Gila River Indian Community CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-800-259-3449





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**Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor  
**Regina Antone**

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# Big Progress on New I-10 Bridges Over Gila River

**GRIN Staff**  
Gila River Indian News

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is making great strides in building new Interstate 10 bridges over the Gila River near Wild Horse Pass. These bridges are a key part of a major expansion project aimed at improving traffic flow through the Gila River Indian Community.

The \$50.9 million project began in May 2024 and has already achieved several big milestones. Over the summer, construction crews finished installing the foundation, including the drilled shafts, concrete columns, and pier caps that will support the bridge.

In October, workers completed one of the most important tasks so far: placing 52 huge concrete girders for the eastbound bridge. Each girder, made at a local factory in Phoenix, is 104 feet long, 4 feet tall, and weighs 42 tons. To avoid traffic delays, crews worked at night to get the girders in place over two weeks.

“This is a major step forward for the project,” said Marcy McMacken, community relations project manager and public information officer for ADOT. “When both bridges are done, we’ll have installed 182 girders to support the new eastbound and westbound structures.”

Right now, teams are focused on adding diaphragms to the eastbound bridge. These parts help strengthen the bridge and evenly spread out the weight of vehicles, including heavy trucks.

The next big step is scheduled for early 2025, when crews will pour the bridge deck. Once finished, the new bridges will



Photos from March 2024 (top) and November 2024 (bottom) shows poggress on the I-10 Gila River bridge work as part of the expansion of the roadways. Photos Courtesy of ADOT

expand from two lanes to three lanes in each direction. Wider shoulders will also make the road safer and easier to use.

These bridges are part of the larger I-10 Wild Horse Pass Corridor Project, which covers 26 miles between Loop 202 and State Route 387 near Casa Grande. The overall project will add three continuous lanes in each direction between Phoenix


and Tucson, making travel faster and safer for everyone.

Other upgrades in the project include new HOV lanes from Loop 202 to Riggs Road, better interchanges, and advanced freeway technology like fiber optics for improved safety and communication.

To keep traffic moving during construction, the new bridges are being built next to

the old ones. Lane restrictions are kept to a minimum and are scheduled during overnight hours.

The new Gila River bridges, which will stretch 1,400 feet, are expected to be finished by 2026. The entire corridor project is on track to wrap up by late 2028. For the latest updates on construction and traffic, visit [i10wildhorse-passcorridor.com](https://www.azdot.gov/i10wildhorse-passcorridor.com).




WILD HORSE PASS

## December Events at Wild Horse Pass

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\*A valid Tribal I.D. must be presented at the time of purchase at box office or entry to receive the Tribal discount. Discount dates and eligibility may vary.



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District	Date	Time
District 1	Tuesday, January 7	10 AM - 3 PM
District 2	Thursday, January 9	10 AM - 3 PM
District 3	Tuesday, January 14	10 AM - 3 PM
District 4	Thursday, January 16	10 AM - 3 PM
District 5	Tuesday, January 21	10 AM - 3 PM
District 6	Thursday, January 23	10 AM - 3 PM
District 7	Tuesday, January 28	10 AM - 3 PM

For More Information, Please Call: Amber Mix at (520) 562-9832



# Sacaton School gathers for a festive Family Night



Santa makes a visit during the Family Night event on Dec. 12. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

**Roberto A. Jackson**  
Communications & Public Affairs Office

The Christmas spirit was definitely in the air on Dec. 12 at the Sacaton Middle School gymnasium for Sacaton Elementary School’s Holiday Arts & Crafts Family Night. With holiday decorations adorning the gym, and staff members dressed in fun Christmas-themed clothes, December’s family night brought large numbers of families and students to the school for a holly, jolly



Council Rep. Joseph Manuel (far left) and Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis (far right) join Sacaton School staff for the evenings festivities. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

good time.

Along with students and families, Gov. Stephen

Roe Lewis gave remarks as well as District 3 Community Council Representative Joseph Manuel Jr. Raffles, contests and special presentations continued through the evening until the holiday concluded around 6:30 p.m.

Old St. Nick and the lovable Grinch also appeared spreading cheer and mingling with wide-eyed students while Christmas music played throughout the night.



Students were also visited by the Grinch. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

## A’AGA *Something to be told or talked about*



**Submitted by**  
Billy Allen

In 1990 President George H.W. Bush signed a proclamation designating November which became known as Native American Heritage Month. This past November, O’odham jeved/land was host to various get-togethers to celebrate O’odham. On Monday, Nov.18, Central Arizona College held an event which began with Robert Stone delivering a blessing. It was followed by a “Walk

the Land,” a self-guided informational tour of campus with stops highlighting contributions of our Indigenous communities. Upon returning, Andrea Ramon, BA, MA, Adjunct for Tohono O’odham Community College, spoke of how she and others work closely with three Tohono O’odham Nation Head Start centers to transform them into immersion schools. A step to create a new generation of O’odham language speakers. This was followed by a modern O’odham-inspired lunch.

When Dr. Ofelia Zepe-da’s A Papago Grammar book was published in 1983 it was a primer for the Papago Language. When the tribe adopted a new constitution in 1986, it officially changed its name to Tohono O’odham Nation (TON), the book was reissued as A Tohono O’odham Grammar. The 1983 book’s introduction states no research had been done to find out how many Toho-

no O’odham still spoke the ñi’okī – it was estimated about 70-75%. Good, since studies are usually done when a language is dying. Time has shown her work to be beneficial for all O’odham speakers and writers. In 1998, the Tohono O’odham Nation established Tohono O’odham Community College in Sells, Arizona. TOCC offered college classes and was fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in February 2003.

Fast forward a couple of generations, ‘for the times, they are a-changin’. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization declared O’odham as a “definitively endangered language,” in 2017. The TON Education Department convened a meeting with the American Indian Language Development Institute at the TON Cultural Center and Museum – Himdag Ki: in 2018. Consensus was reached and a goal was set, “Bringing



Sacaton students fill the gymnasium to enjoy Family Night with holiday arts and crafts. Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

# POLICY UPDATE

## Community Services Department

We have Updated Our Facility Use Policy for District 1 Thru District 7

### Effective January 01, 2025 the new policy guidelines will start

- ✓ The updated policy establishes the administrative responsibilities & oversight of all Tribal Facilities for each District
- ✓ Creates Uniformity and Consistency with Districts of Facility Use Practices
- ✓ Establishes general guidelines, rules and regulations for Multi-Purpose Buildings, Parks, Ballfields, and Annex Buildings for the safety of the community members.
- ✓ Establishes a standard refundable fee for all Districts and Refund Process.
- ✓ Promotes safety for all Community members and Consistency

our minds together to save our language.” Am o ‘i-he-makoc g t-cegītoidag k ‘am o ‘igewkamhun g t-ñi’ok.

Training programs for language learners and teachers within the community were begun. It became evident a site for language documentation and research was also needed to house material and personnel. On November 19, 2024, an O’odham Language Center was formally dedicated on the campus of TOCC. College, tribal administration, teachers, dignitaries and community members were present to support this milestone. Tours throughout the building allowed all to imagine the possibilities. It’s encouraging to see how Tohono O’odham Nation extends a nurturing welcome to other tribes to revitalize our language.

Culture Teacher Gatherings were begun when GRIC and SRPMIC teachers met to exchange and discuss ways to implement cultural learning in

the classroom. Today, the 4 brother tribes (GRIC, SRPMIC, Ak-Chin, TON) continue to assist educators with new ideas for the classroom and community. Meetings are rotated among the O’odham tribes. Friday, November 22, 2024, the TON Education Department held this year’s gathering at the TON Cultural Center and Museum. Administrators, teachers from community and charter schools along with interested community people attended to see and listen about various ways of teaching O’odham Ñi’okī. Teaching O’odham is not ‘one size fits all’. Most of the presenters were O’odham sharing informative, helpful, classroom tested activities. (As a retired teacher I really appreciate that.) A few sessions were; Reviving the Gohimeli Ceremony, Coding-O’odham Technology, Games for Learning O’odham, O’odham Language Awareness Campaign, Venito Garcia/

TOCC Libraries offerings, Doll-Making, and How TONCA TV Teaches O’odham.

But the best activity was hearing O’odham Ñi’okī, in greeting each other, asking for directions, inquiring from where one came from, etc. Can’t wait for 2025, to meet new relatives and be surrounded by those learning O’odham.

Material was gathered from National Native American Heritage Month | Indian Affairs; NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH; GRIN, September 2020, Ak Chin Runner, October 7 -20, 2022, and Frances Benavidez, “We All Spoke O’odham”: Tohono O’odham Community College’s Collaborative Approach to Language Sustainability, The Tribal College, Journal of American Indian Higher Education. Volume 35, No. 3 - Spring 2024, February 15, 2024. AI was not utilized.



# Coolidge High School honors Native American Heritage Month

Joseph Morales  
GRIN Intern

On Nov. 21, Coolidge High School (CHS) held a Native American Heritage Month Celebration (NAHM).

This all came together with the help of Jerry Curley, Gila River Indian Community K-12 Student Advisor at CHS. The process of this event started on July 23, 2024. Staff emailed Mr. Curley when they did summer training in Tucson. When we spoke he shared “At this training they showed a video of how students, the district, and the surrounding community at Desert View High School collaborated on an idea to build a

“vatho” on the grounds of the high school.” The idea was presented to CHS Principal; Dr. Natay Ferguson, GRIC Tribal Education Department’s Culture and Language Program along with the Coolidge Unified School District.

Meetings with written proposals were sent to Juan Buatista de Anza National Historic Trail in October for possible funding of the project and the celebration. The proposals were accepted and allowed the project to proceed. CHS students and parents built the “vatho” on November 20th with the dedication the next day.

The “Vatho” dedication and ceremony blessing would start the evening for

the NAHM celebration. The Keli Akimel Basket Dancers would finish the opening portion. More performances happened in the evening such as Tony Redhouse a Native American music awards recording artist; Champion hoop dancer, Naiche Duncan; and One way Sky, an alternative rock band from the Gila River Indian Community and Tohono O’odham Nation.

Food and vendors were in attendance throughout the night. One booth was honoring Native American Veterans in the Marine Corps such as Minnie Spotted-Wolf and Ira Hayes. Andras Smith of District 2 Hashan Khék was the student in charge. He is a cadet in JROTC Program that was presenting the information. Afterwards he stated “I think it’s cool, having an event like this at my own school.”

The agenda ended with the performances in the school’s performing arts center. All left after a night of honoring and celebration for Native American Heritage Month. This event would mark the first of its kind for CHS.



Basket dancers perform during the Native American Heritage Month event on Nov. 21. Photo Courtesy of Joseph Morales



Phillip Rocha and Aमार Hawkins hold the championship trophy and receive awards after their win against the Eagles on Nov. 23. Photo Courtesy of Orlando Acosta

## From the Front Page

Player of the Year award.

Rocha said, “It was incredible. I didn’t think I was able to achieve something so great.”

“To be awarded that award is just like a big dream come true as a high school student because it’s not every day where you could win a player of the year award for the whole conference of that division. I take pride in that,” said Hawkins.

With a state championship under their belt, the Mustangs are already looking toward next season. Although many of the players will be graduating, most will be returning and the program looks forward to

attracting new talent eager to join the winning legacy.

The story of the Skyline Gila River football team is a testament to perseverance and teamwork. In just two years, they’ve gone from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of high school sports—a journey that will be remembered for years to come.

### Skyline Gila River 2024 Varsity tackle football roster:

- #1 Phillip Rocha Sr
- #2 Arjay Lockard So
- #3 Aमार Hawkins Sr
- #4 Adrian Rocha Sr
- #5 Darrell Brooks So
- #6 Celestine Cross Jr
- #7 Isaiah Fino So
- #8 Christian Harvier Sr
- #9 Dimitri Pratt Sr
- #10 David Perez Sr
- #11 Bryson Brooks Fr

- #12 Dorien Lewis -Moreno So
- #13 Khaizon Antone Fr
- #15 Ino Davis So
- #14 Jason Allison Sr
- #17 Nicholas Antone Jr
- #18 Koda Kalka Sr
- #20 Jacob Gutierrez Sr
- #22 Brody Tate Sr
- #23 Jayme Webb- Holguin So
- #24 Charles Millard Sr
- #26 Elijah Hart Sr

**Coaches:**  
Head Coach- Darius Turner  
Defensives Coordinator- Eddie Stokes  
Offensive Coordinator- Roman Alvarez  
Special Teams Coordinator- Christopher Rico

# Avoiding Unintended Warrants: The Importance of Updating Court Contact Information

Submitted by  
Defense Services Office

Recent initiatives by Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) criminal prosecutors have highlighted a critical need for community members to keep their contact information current with the GRIC Court. Failure to do so could result in unexpected legal complications.

Under the GRIC Code, the Office of the Prosecutor (OOP) has up to 36 months after discovering an offense to file criminal charges. This means that even incidents from years past could suddenly become active legal matters.

### How Warrants Can Unexpectedly Arise

Consider this scenario: An individual is arrested for a minor offense, such as underage liquor possession, but not immediately charged. The OOP can still file charges up to

three years later. If court summons are sent to an outdated address and the individual fails to appear, a warrant may be issued.

### Proactive Steps to Prevent Warrants

The solution is straightforward: keep your contact information updated with the court. If you have been arrested in the past 36 months and never charged, or are unsure about your current legal status, take action:

- Contact the Gila River Indian Community Court at (520) 562-9860
- Update your current mailing and physical address
- Verify whether any charges have been filed against you
- Check if any outstanding warrants exist

### Court’s Warrant Resolution Program

The court offers a valuable program that allows individuals to clear

bench warrants without arrest if they notify the court proactively. This approach emphasizes rehabilitation and communication over punitive measures.

### A Cautionary Note

Unresolved warrants can persist for years. Our office has encountered cases involving warrants 15-20 years old, potentially catching individuals off guard during routine interactions with law enforcement.

### Additional Resources

For further guidance, contact:

- Gila River Indian Community Court: (520) 562-9860, or
- Defense Services Office: (520) 562-5700 (Select Option 1)

By staying informed and proactive, community members can avoid unexpected legal complications and maintain good standing with the court.

November 12, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Gila Crossing Community School** will be participating again this year in the **National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program**. As part of this program, **GCSS** will offer healthy meals every school day at **NO COST** to the students due to the implementation of the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** for school year 2023-2024. Students will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

No further action is required of you. Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application.

**My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-855-432-7587.

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★ VETERANS ★  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Understanding the PACT Act

Tribal Veterans Symposium



Submitted by  
Veteran & Family  
Services Office

The PACT Act was signed into law on Aug.10, 2022. It was one of the largest pieces of legislation for granting healthcare and benefits to Veterans. It has greatly expanded the number of Veterans eligible to receive VA Healthcare and benefits.

We’ve all seen the commercials on television that lists the 23 new presumptive conditions acknowledged under the PACT ACT. The commercials, however are confusing. They don’t explain how to know if you are eligible. Let’s break it down.

The conditions of hypertension (high blood pressure) and MGUS (a non-cancerous blood disorder) only apply to the Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodian, Guam/Samoa, and Johnston Atoll Veterans that were presumed exposed to Agent Orange. The Act covers the exposed Veterans not previous covered outside of Vietnam to be

acknowledged for all Agent Orange presumptive conditions. The exposure dates for these locations is specifically limited. The Blue Water Act covered those at sea (close range) for Agent Orange exposure.

If you are a Veteran that deployed to Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE or any of the airspaces above those areas after August 2, 1990, then you are covered by the other 21 PACT Act presumptive conditions.

If you are a Veteran that deployed after September 11, 2001 to Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, Yemen or any of the air spaces above those areas, then you are covered by the other 21 PACT Act presumptive conditions.

The PACT ACT acknowledges radiation exposure in Spain, Enewetak Atoll, the B-52 Clean-up off Palomares coast and the B-52 fire in Greenland (all during specific dates). Under individual circumstances, health conditions caused by Ionizing radiation may be acknowledged.

The VA is considering Toxic Exposures specific to your military occupational specialty. Even if you have service connected disabilities, those conditions or medications for those conditions, might cause secondary conditions. There is

a possibility of service connecting the secondary conditions and increasing your overall disability rating.

Most likely, one of the places where you were stationed (stateside) was a contaminated military base. There are medical conditions (specific to each location) that may qualify for service connected benefits.

You may qualify for healthcare and benefits for contaminated water exposure if you were stationed at contaminated installations including Camp LeJeune.

Remember, anytime you apply for disability benefits you are applying for medical conditions caused by or related to your time in service. Applying for these/any service connected disabilities can determine a possible benefit for a surviving spouse.

Please make an appointment to speak with someone in our Department to discuss your eligibility for healthcare and benefits covered by the PACT act and Toxic Exposures.

You served! You earned it!

Peer Support Specialist - Wesley Rhodes 520-610-4383

Peer Support Specialist - Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037

Veteran Service Officer – Kim Skelton 520-610-7644

**Roberto A. Jackson**  
Communications & Public Affairs Office

Tribal leaders, veterans and veteran groups convened at Gila River Resorts & Casinos - Wild Horse Pass on Friday, Nov. 15 for the 6th Annual Statewide Tribal Veteran Symposium and was hosted by BlueCross BlueShield Arizona. The two-day event focused on meeting the health and well-being needs of Native American veterans in Arizona. Representatives from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs participated in a panel on enhancing tribal veteran services; and other breakout sessions included information on vocational opportunities, suicide prevention, homelessness initiatives, mental health challenges and other types of support.

Gov. Stephen Roe



**Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis delivering remarks at the 6th Annual Tribal Veterans Symposium on Nov. 15.** Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

Lewis was one of the keynote speakers and he highlighted the Gila River Indian Community’s Veteran & Family Services Office.

He said the vision to establish the office was, “guided by our veterans to serve, not only our Community members, but also serve their brothers and sisters off the reservation.”

Gov. Lewis also noted how the Veteran & Family Services Office is the second tribal veteran service organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as an accredited tribal veteran service organization to assist veterans.

“That one of the accomplishments that I am proud of the most,” said Gov. Lewis.

Dr. Anthony Newkirk, U.S. Air Force, spoke as well on the topic of veteran peer support.

Other speakers included representatives from the Tohono O’odham Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe as well as other tribal communities and representatives from the VA and other health care systems.



**Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis with Holly Figueroa who serves as the Trial Liaison for BCBSAZ Health Choice.** Roberto A. Jackson/CPAO

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# Annual Winter Bird Count Highlights Conservation Efforts in GRIC

**Victoria Baker**  
CPAO Intern

For over two decades, the Annual Winter Bird Count hosted by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has become a cherished tradition within the Gila River Indian Community. This year’s count was held on Friday, Dec. 7 in multiple locations within the Community: District 3, District 5, District 6, and District 7.

First held in 1998, this event helps raise awareness about the migration patterns of birds and offers in-

sight into how environmental changes have affected the area.

The bird count plays a crucial role in both conservation and community engagement. By partnering with local Audubon groups, the DEQ ensures accurate data collection across six designated sites within the community.

“We ask Audubon’s to help with our data collection. They are really good at recognizing birds by sound and look,” said Tison Gill, environmental education & outreach specialist

with DEQ.

This year, over 30 Audubon members participated in the count, using their expertise to identify birds by sight and sound. This long-standing partnership has allowed the event to thrive for over 20 years despite the vast land area. Following the bird count, DEQ held a cultural event at their Environmental Education Center, fostering a deeper connection between the community and its environment.

“We will continue to engage with the community

through events and workshops to share how we are protecting our himdag for future generations,” said Gill

After the count, the data is compiled into a report and shared with the community, providing valuable insights into local wildlife. This initiative underscores the DEQ’s commitment to environmental stewardship and educating the public on the importance of conservation efforts.



DEQ hosts their annual winter bird count. GRIN Photo

## From the Front Page

Water Settlements Act is a crucial part of this effort – ensuring vital water access for the Gila River Indian Community.”

Gov. Lewis also addressed the challenges the Community has faced since the settlement’s enactment, including legal battles to protect water rights and emerging threats from the ongoing mega-drought affecting the Colorado River Basin. He pointed to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021, which provided



L-R: Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Richard Narcia, and Jon Kyl during the 20th Water Rights Day Celebration on Dec. 10. Emma Hughes/GRIN

over \$200 million to secure affordable CAP water delivery, as a recent victory for the Community.

“Our water journey is ongoing and may never truly end,” said Gov. Lewis. He outlined a forward-looking strategy fo-

cused on stabilizing in-state water supplies, such as the Gila and Verde Rivers, and

leveraging groundwater resources.

“We must continue the sacred journey our ancestors started,” he said. “This Community is ready.”

The celebration also highlighted the role of partnerships, with Lewis recognizing both the Gila River Community Council and the 38 Sovereigns Council—a coalition of tribal and Colorado River state leaders—for their unwavering commitment to protecting water rights. Council members stood to receive applause for their leadership and dedication.

The Water Rights Day events also included a

24-mile run from District Seven to the Huhugam Heritage Center on Maricopa Road. The run, held on Dec. 7th, included about 20 Community members, including young runners from the Akimel O’odham/Pee Posh Youth Council.

As Water Rights Day drew to a close, Gov. Lewis reminded attendees that the Community’s water agreement was not an endpoint, but a milestone and a beginning.

“We have respected the traditions of our ancestors by innovating in the face of crisis, just as they did,” said Gov. Lewis. “We will remain Gila River Strong.”



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\*\*\*December 10th

\*\*\*December 24th

\*\*\*December 25th



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# HEADLINES

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Stephen Roe Lewis  
Governor



Regina Antone  
Lt. Governor

### Governor Lewis Named to TIME Magazine’s Top 100 Climate Leaders

**GRIN Staff**  
Gila River Indian News

Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis has been named to TIME Magazine’s 2024 TIME100 Climate list, which honors leaders making a significant impact on global climate issues. Gov. Lewis, now in his fourth term as the leader of the Community, is joined on the list by prominent figures such as World Bank President Ajay Banga, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, and Bill Gates, the founder of TerraPower.

TIME highlighted Gov. Lewis for his leadership in developing the Western Hemisphere’s first solar-over-canal system, a project that combines renewable energy generation with water conservation.

“As Governor of the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona, he is spearheading his vision of a ‘blue-green economy’ that prioritizes conserving water and producing renewable energy, with the ultimate goal of becoming



**Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis showcasing the solar panel over canal project. CPAO Photo**

a net-zero tribe,” the magazine noted.

Launched in October, the solar-over-canal project transforms a half-mile of irrigation canal into a dual-purpose powerhouse. Solar panels mounted over the waterway generate one megawatt of electricity - enough to light up hundreds of homes - while their shade helps prevent precious water from evaporating under Arizona’s scorching sun. The U.S. Inflation Reduction Act provided \$5.65 million to bring this concept to life.

Drawing from O’odham agricultural traditions and teachings, Gov. Lewis has made protecting water resources (shudag) and promoting farming central to his leadership. His vision includes supporting new generations

of Community farmers, keeping traditional practices alive while embracing modern technology.

Speaking to TIME, Governor Lewis stressed that Indigenous voices must be part of climate solutions. “Speak to your Indigenous leaders in your countries around the world,” he said. “I have worked and collaborated with many and I think it is fair to say that

tribal leaders are committed to the values of climate activism in a deep way and have an innovative sense and approach that will prove valuable. In our experience, tribes should not just be consulted about these efforts, but when you bring us in and truly plan efforts with us, we bring real innovation and deliver results, as my Community has already done in a number of projects across our Reservation, not least our solar-covered canal projects.”

The initial solar canal’s success has already sparked bigger plans. The Community is designing a second solar canal project and developing a floating solar installation for a reservoir, expected later this year. These projects advance Gov. Lewis’s broader mission of fighting climate change while protecting vital water resources.

Before becoming Governor, Lewis served as Lieutenant Governor, focusing on long-term solutions for the Community. Under his leadership, the

Community launched Managed Aquifer Recharge sites, which help ensure water access while restoring natural areas crucial for farming and wildlife. These efforts to revive the Gila River carry special meaning, as the river holds deep cultural significance to many Community members.

“As Governor of a sovereign Indian tribe located in central Arizona, I am confronted every day with the impacts of an environment that is experiencing rapid aridification,” Lewis told TIME. “In addition to attacking the root cause of climate change through expansive renewable energy investment, the federal government needs to institute a ‘moonshot’ effort to address the aridification of our country and the world, challenging tribal, local and state governments, companies, academics, and individuals to bring innovation and best practices for ways to live smarter with the water resources we have in the areas we live.”

### Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport Authority Board of Directors Airport Tour

**Submission**  
Executive Office

The Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport Authority Board of Directors Airport Tour took place on Nov. 19.

Lt. Gov. Regina Antone serves as the Vice-Chairwoman for the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway airport Senior Board of Directors, which includes, Mesa Mayor John Giles, Apache Junction Mayor

Chip Wilson, Mayor of Queen Creek Julia Wheatley and Mayor of Gilbert Brigitte Peterson. All attended a tour of the new opening of;

The Gulfstream’s new West Coast Service Center located at 9053 E. Aviation Way (near Gateway Blvd and Ellsworth Road). The 225,000-square-foot facility at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport marks the company’s expansion into

Arizona, representing an investment of more than \$70 million. The Mesa facility will include hangar space, back shops and employee and customer offices. Through workforce development partnerships with Arizona State University and Chandler-Gilbert Community College, located adjacent to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Gulfstream will help prepare tomorrow’s work-

ers for high-paying jobs in the fast-growing aerospace sector. Gulfstream already has more than 60 employees working at the Mesa facility and plans to ultimately grow to around 200 employees once the new larger facility opens next year.

The XNRGY Climate Systems facility and Gateway East Master Development- XNRGY’s expansion signifies a giant leap forward, not just in manufacturing capacity, but also in its commitment to the U.S. market and the environment. The Mesa facility will create exciting career opportunities, with XNRGY actively partnering with local universities and trade schools to recruit and hire skilled workers, fostering a new generation of sustainability champions within the Mesa community. “As Mesa continues to evolve as a hub for innovation, we are delighted to see XNRGY’s groundbreaking on their massive sustainable manufacturing hub,” said Mesa Mayor John Giles. “This significant investment not only underscores Mesa’s attractiveness for leading-edge companies but also rein-



**Phoenix-Mesa Airport Authority Board of Directors during a tour on Nov. 19. Photo Courtesy of Lt. Gov. Regina Antone**

forces our commitment to a greener future. With over 900 new jobs, this project exemplifies the intersection of economic growth and environmental stewardship.”

Lt. Gov. Antone states, “With all this economic development on our borders, this can create and attract more economic development opportunities for our Community.”

The construction completion of the Virgin Galactic manufacturing facility and hangar- Virgin Galactic is an aerospace and space travel company, pioneering human spaceflight for

private individuals and researchers with its advanced air and space vehicles. They are making the dream of space travel a reality, delivering spaceflight at an unprecedented frequency, with the development of next generation space vehicles. At this site the Spaceship Factory in Phoenix-Mesa, Arizona, Virgin Galactic’s new Delta ships are being built to operate with an average turnaround time of just three days. The design of our spaceflight system enables each spaceship to fly hundreds of customers to space each year.



**L-R: Mesa Mayor John Giles, Lt. Gov. Regina Antone, Queen Creek Mayor Julie Wheatley, Apache Junction Mayor Chip Wilson, and Gilbert Mayor Brigitte Peterson. Photo Courtesy of Lt. Gov. Regina Antone**



# Natasha Juan receives High School Student of the Year Award

Emma Hughes  
Gila River Indian News

GRIC member Natasha Juan, a senior at Coolidge High School, was honored with the prestigious High School Student of the Year Award from the Phoenix Indian Center. An award ceremony for the annual Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards was held on Nov. 22, at the Heard Museum.

Awards are divided into nine categories for recipients who demonstrate dedication, leadership, and commitment to the advancement and development of the cultural, education, social, economic, or political welfare.

High School Student of the Year award is reserved for students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to their community.

Juan has consistently impressed teachers, peers, and the local community with her dedication and excellence. Maintaining a stellar GPA of 4.0 and being on the honor roll each year, while balancing extracurricular activities and community service.

Juan was nominated for the award by the school's student advisor, Jerry Curley. "He's really been supportive of her, since freshman year," said her mother, Josette Sanchez. "He's always been a helping hand and a guiding star for her. So, I really appreciate him giving her that honor."



Natasha Juan is recognized as 'High School Student of the Year' during the Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards ceremony on Nov. 22 at the Heard Museum. Emma Hughes/GRIN

"I don't take this lightly and hope that I can and do make our community proud. I'm just getting started and I hope to accomplish a lot more," Juan said during her acceptance speech. She also gave recognition to her parents, Josette Sanchez and Ervin Juan, for instilling her desire to work hard and reach for her goals.

She added, "I also want to give gratitude to my community for affording us opportunities to be involved in programs that are outside of our comfort zone - challenging us to step up as leaders."

What makes Juan exceptional is her ability to shine in multiple areas, including high school softball and in Gila River Health Care's Elev8 Initiative that commits to strengthening tribal healthcare and its workforce by fostering the interests of youth in healthcare careers.

Juan also attends the Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology (CAVIT), which includes dual accredited courses.

She will be receiving a pharmacy certification next year in May, and will be attending the University of Arizona, where she will pursue a degree in pharmaceutical sciences. She plans to pursue a career in the health field, an interest that was sparked during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am extremely proud of her. She's worked really hard," said Sanchez.

Family and friends were present for the award ceremony, including GRIC leadership Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Community Council Representatives Avery White and Joseph Manuel Jr., and Miss Gila

River Susanna Osife.

**2024 Arizona American Indian Excellence in Leadership Award recipients:**

- Kent C. Ware Lifetime Achievement Award: Jack Ahasteen (Diné)
- Phyllis J. Bigpond Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Juliette Rod-

dy (Ojibwe and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)

- Woman of the Year: Loris Taylor (Hopi)

- Person of the Year: Eddie George/ Navi Ho (Diné)

- Business of the Year: Ahehee' Shidine'e Home-care

- Volunteer of the Year: Barbara Tinhorn (Hualapai Tribe)

- Friend of the Community: Cooper Davis

- College Student of the Year: Angellisa J. Hoffman (San Carlos Apache) – Northern Arizona University

- High School Student of the Year: Natasha Juan (Gila River Indian Community)



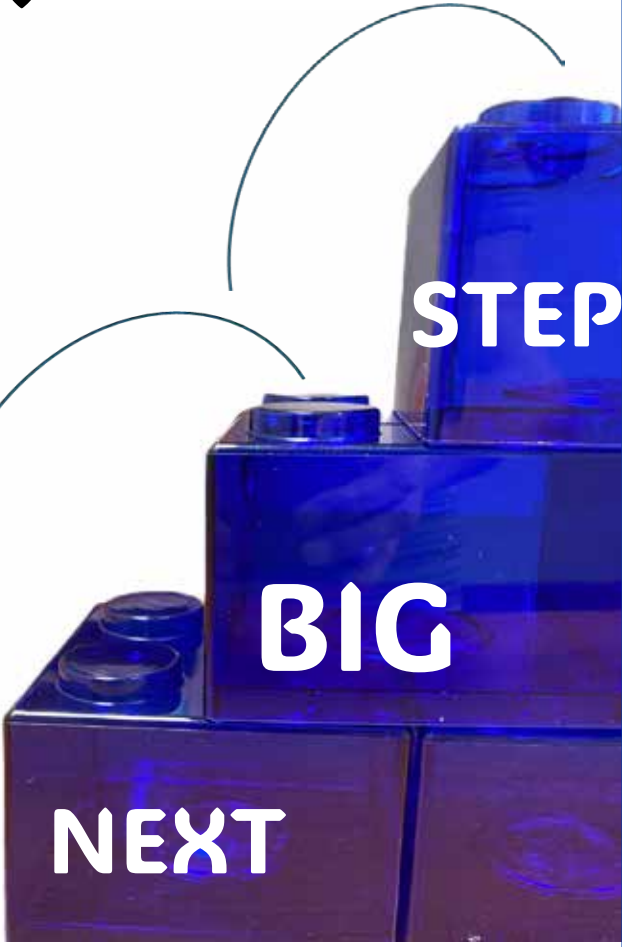
Natasha Juan (center right), is surrounded by family and friends, including Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, Miss Gila River Susanna Osife, Community Council Rep. Joseph Manuel Jr., and Community Council Rep. Avery White. Emma Hughes/GRIN

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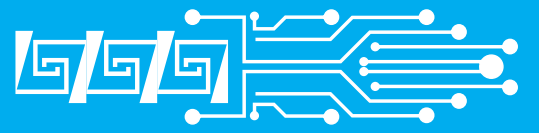
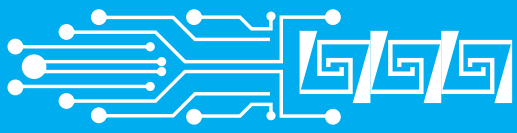












Gila River Indian Community and Gila River Telecommunications

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[digitalconnect.org/dis](https://digitalconnect.org/dis)



\*\*NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT\*\*

RESIDENT NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2025

The Community’s Residency Ordinance requires all adults (18 years of age and older) who are not enrolled members of the Gila River Indian Community, but who reside within the boundaries of the Community to register their residency.

- ✓ All non-member residents 18 years of age and older must register their residency with the Enrollment Department by January 31<sup>st</sup> each year.
- ✓ Previously registered non-member residents will receive a renewal form by mail. All other non-member residents should contact the Enrollment Department.
- ✓ The Registration Form can be submitted in person at the Enrollment Office, a photo ID is required.
- ✓ Registration Forms can be submitted by email, fax or mail, notary is required.



Contact Information:

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 97  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Physical Address:  
525 W Gu U Ki  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Phone: (520) 562-9790  
Fax: (520) 562-8103  
Email: [enrollment.dept@gric.nsn.us](mailto:enrollment.dept@gric.nsn.us)

MISSING PERSONS

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLAYTON WAHPETA	PETER THOMAS	JOSEPH UGALDE	ANTHONY PORTER	KERMIT BREAD	CYNTHIA ACEVEDO	TONY GUTIERREZ	TRANT JACKSON, JR
							
Last seen: 06/03/2005 Age: 37 Sex: M Hair: Black(shaved) Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 190	Last seen: 08/03/2007 Age: 47 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 190	Last seen: 05/14/2009 Age: 43 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 200	Last seen: 10/15/2011 Age: 48 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'6" Weight: 210	Last seen: 04/11/2014 Age: 39 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 150	Last seen: 08/31/2019 Age: 39 Sex: F Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'4" Weight: 230	Last seen: 09/16/2022 Age: 37 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'11" Weight: 350	Last seen: 06/29/2024 Age: 15 Sex: M Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'7" Weight: 150
CELESTINA ARVISO	LORENZO JOSE	EMMANUEL BARRERA	ELEJIAH BROWN	VINCENT BAPTISTO	RAYONNAH MIX	JOLENE SETOYANT	SUPAYA FISHER
							
Last seen: 07/24/2024 Age: 16 Sex: F Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: Unknown	Last seen: 08/29/2024 Age: 17 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 170	Last seen: 09/01/2024 Age: 20 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'7" Weight: 175	Last seen: 11/01/2024 Age: 14 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'4" Weight: 145	Last seen: 11/20/2024 Age: 44 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'11" Weight: 250	Last seen: 12/06/24 Age: 14 Sex: F Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 125	Last seen: 12/20/2024 Age: 33 Sex: F Hair: Blue Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 145	Last seen: 12/29/2024 Age: 12 Sex: F Hair: Reddish Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 150

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT: (520) 562-4511



Announcements & Notices

**COURT NOTICE**

Law Office of Sonia Martinez

IN THE MATTER OF: CV2024-0078-MO

LYNELLE BLACKWATER,  
PLAINTIFF

JUSTIN S. CHUIGO ET AL.,

DEFENDANTS

**SUMMONS** TO DEFENDANTS ZACHARY LEWIS AND ADRIEN SAAVEDRA TO FILE AN ANSWER TO AMENDED CIVIL COMPLAINT FILED ON: 6/28/2024 AND ORDER TO APPEAR FOR A COURT HEARING ON: 12/17/2024 AT 10:30AM IN COURTROOM I, SACATON COURT, HONORABLE DARREN PEDRO-MARTINEZ

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA

**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
ALEXANDER RICHARD FLORES  
**Petitioner/Plaintiff**  
**VS.**  
ANGEL GUADALUPE ROSE  
**Respondent/Defendant**

**Case No.:** FM-2024-0047-PT

**SUMMONS**  
Civil Division

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED**, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian

Community Court.

**YOU** shall respond at an **Answer/Response Hearing** regarding this matter on:

**Monday, January 6, 2025 at 3:00 PM in Courtroom I**  
**AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,**  
**721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ**

**YOU** may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by the Court.

**If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.**

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA

**IN THE MATTER OF:**  
RYAN LEANDER SHELDE  
**Petitioner/Plaintiff**  
**VS.**  
MISTY THUNDER  
**Respondent/Defendant**

**Case No.:** FM-2024-0065-PT

**SUMMONS**  
Civil Division

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED**, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian

Community Court.

**YOU** shall respond at an **Answer/Response Hearing** regarding this matter on:

**Monday, January 13, 2025 at 2:00 PM in Courtroom VII Westend Judicial Center,**  
**4751 West Pecos Road, Laveen, AZ**

**YOU** may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by the Court.

**If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.**

**COURT NOTICE**

Lewis, Robi Corey - Initial Guardianship Hearing and Permanency and Review Hearing  
Mother Marissa Francisco (DOB: 03/13/1999)  
Minor: C.M.L.F. (DOB: 0208/2020)  
Case: J-23-0026

Court Date: January 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM  
COURTROOM #3. 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR

FAILURE TO APPEAR CAN AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS

JURISDICTION: SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT ADDRESS: 10040 E. OSBORN RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85256  
CONTACT: (480)362-6315

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated,  
Andrew Johnson - Court Clerk  
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal Court  
10,040 E. Osborn Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ  
(480) 362-6315

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA

**MELISSA JENNIE HOWARD**  
**VS.**  
**CODY CHACON**

**Case No.** CV-2024-0110-MO

**CIVIL BENCH WARRANT**

**IN THE NAME OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN**

**COMMUNITY COURT: TO ANY TRIBAL POLICE OFFICER, TRIBAL RANGER OR ANY POLICE OFFICER OF THE STATE:**

YOU, are hereby commanded to arrest the above named person, Cody Chacon, and bring HIM/HER before this Court to Answer to:

FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR:  
**Review Hearing**  
**on 02/06/2025 at 9:30 AM**

DATED this October 31, 2024

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA

LUIS ROSAS SANDOVAL  
Petitioner/Plaintiff

VS.

MONIQUE BARRERA  
Respondent/Defendant

Case Number: FM-2024-0067-PT

**SUMMONS**  
Civil Division

TO: Monique Barrera  
PO Box 100, Laveen, AZ, 85339

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED**, that a civil action has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian

Community Court.

**YOU** shall respond at an Answer/Response Hearing regarding this matter on:

**Monday, January 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom VII,**  
**Westend Judicial Center,**  
**4751 West Pecos Road, Laveen, AZ.**

**YOU** may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court.

**If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.**

**DATED this 25th day of November, 2024**

**GRIC COURT DATE NOTICE**

IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA

**ALIZIA MONICA BUSTOS**  
**Petitioner/Plaintiff**

**VS.**

**TRE JORDAN SIMS**  
**Respondent/Defendant**

**Case No.** FM-2024-0059-PT

**SUMMONS**  
Civil Division

TO: Tre Jordan Sims  
2022 N 28th Pl, Phoenix, AZ 85008

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED**, that a civil action

has been filed against you in the Gila River Indian Community Court.

**YOU** shall respond at an **Answer/Response Hearing** regarding this matter on:

**Tuesday, February 18 2025 at 1:00 PM in Courtroom I,**  
**AKIMEL O'OTHAM LODITHA KUD KI,**  
**721 West Seed Farm Road, Sacaton, AZ**

**YOU** may respond in writing. However, even if you do so, your presence at the Answer/Response Hearing is still required. If a written answer or response is made, it shall be filed and served before the date of the hearing, unless the time is extended by order of the Court.


**If you fail to appear and defend, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.**

**NOTICE OF EXCLUSION**

**Andrew Demorest**

Permanently Excluded from the Gila River Indian Community  
By Community Council on December 3, 2024

If seen, contact Gila River Police Department (520-562-4511)





*Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community*

**\*NOTICE\***

**2025 Agricultural Lease Payment**

**The 2025 Agricultural Lease payment to landowners will be made by mail, direct deposit, or SRPMIC Pay Card only. There will be no in person payout.**

On **Friday, January 24, 2025**, Agricultural Lease Payment checks will be mailed to your address on file or, if you have elected to use direct deposit, disbursement will occur to the financial institution on file with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("SRPMIC") Finance Department. Incorrect information will cause a delay in receiving your payment. To update your address or direct deposit information, or to sign up for direct deposit, please contact:

SRPMIC Vendor Maintenance, ph: (480) 362-7729  
(staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Arizona time)  
The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 13, 2024.  
Please call as soon as possible.

**Pay Card disbursement will be placed onto your SRPMIC Pay Card on Friday, January 24, 2025.** To sign up for a SRPMIC Pay Card for your lease payment or to add your lease payment to an already issued SRPMIC Pay Card, please contact the SRPMIC Finance Department at (480) 362-7620. The last day for Agricultural Lease Payment updates is December 13, 2024.

**Payments less than \$15.00.** All direct deposit and Pay Card payments will be disbursed regardless of the amount. For checks less than \$15.00, landowners will need to contact the SRPMIC Finance Department and request that a check be mailed. Such checks will be processed 7-10 business days following the request after January 24, 2025.

**Questions?** Contact the SRPMIC Finance Leasing Payment Office (480) 362-7730.  
*\*Agricultural lease payments will be made based upon farmer payments received by January 2, 2025 .*



# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

## Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • Oct. 16, 2024

**ACTION SHEET**

Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, October 16, 2024, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Regina Antone at 9:07 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Provided by Councilman Terrance Evans

**ROLL CALL**

Standing Committee Assistant Lisa Hendricks called the roll  
Executive Officers Present:  
Lt. Governor Regina Antone  
Council Members Present:  
D1- Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Jennifer Allison, Leah Williams, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth, Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird (9:32)  
Executive Officers Absent:  
Governor Stephen R. Lewis  
Council Members Absent:  
D5- Gordon Santos, Jr.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #25, #27 THROUGH #31, FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND ACCEPTING NEW BUSINESS #3  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL PROVIDED THROUGH EMAIL FROM CEOT THE LETTER DATED OCTOBER 15, 2024 REGARDING THE PROPOSED DATES FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER NEW BUSINESS #2  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS REPORTS**

1. Financial Activity Report ending September 30, 2024 (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ACCEPTED

**RESOLUTIONS**

>1. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Goodyear, AZ For All Faith Community Services Emergency Programs Facility Enhancement (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>2. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Goodyear, AZ For Sounds Of Autism – Stop – Simple Task Operation Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>3. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For Arizona Friends Of Foster Children Foundation Workforce Development For Youth Aging Out Of Arizona Foster Care (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>4. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For Dress For Success Phoenix Mobile Career Center For Maricopa County Women And Youth (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>5. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For The Foundation For Blind Children Braille Textbooks For Students Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>6. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For Free Arts For Abused Children Of Arizona Art Resilience Programs: Trauma-Informed Arts Education For Youth (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation

for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>7. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For Raising Special Kids Physician Residency Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>8. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For Ronald McDonald House Charities Of Central And Northern Arizona Capital Improvements Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>9. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For Ryan House Sponsor-A-Stay Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>10. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For Sojourner Center Emergency Shelter: Trauma Informed Suite Renovations For Survivors (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>11. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For Special Olympics Arizona Inclusive Programming For The Wellbeing Of Arizonans With Disabilities (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>12. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To Maricopa County, AZ For The Foster Alliance Providing Essential Needs To Children In Foster Care (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>13. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of South Tucson, AZ For South Tucson Police Department Police Vehicles (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>14. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Surprise, AZ For Surprise Fire-Medical IBCCES Autism Training (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>15. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Tolleson, AZ For Tolleson Community Coalition Vecinos Ayudando Vecinos (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>16. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Chandler, AZ For AZCEND, Chandler Food Bank (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>17. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Coolidge, AZ For The American Legion Auxiliary Post 54, Building Code Compliance Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>18. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues

To The City Of Eloy, AZ For Eloy Fire District, Cardiac Monitors (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>19. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Glendale, AZ For YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix, Older Adult Programs (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>20. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Mesa, AZ For Banner Health Foundation, Banner Children's Blood And Cancer Center At Banner Children's At Desert (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>21. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Mesa, AZ For Desert Sounds Performing Arts, The Jeremy Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>22. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Mesa, AZ For Family Promise – Greater Phoenix, Emergency Shelter Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>23. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant Award From The Gila River Indian Community's State Shared Gaming Revenues To The City Of Peoria, AZ For Billy's Place Inc., Grief Peer Support Groups For Kids & Families (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Cheryl Pablo  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>24. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The City Of Mesa Police Department And The Gila River Police Department To Participate In The East Valley Gang And Criminal Information Fusion Center (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)  
Presenter: Chief Jesse Crabtree, Jeffery Hunter  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>25. A Resolution Authorizing The Gila River Police Department To Submit A Grant Application To The United States Department Of Justice, Office Of Justice Programs, Bureau Of Justice Assistance For The FY 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Local Solicitation (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with correction and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)  
Presenter: Chief Jesse Crabtree  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
26. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The October 1, 2023, Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP (C7421) (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval with correction)  
Presenters: Javier Ramos, Michael Carter  
APPROVED  
>27. A Resolution Approving Komatke Health Center DBA Gila River Healthcare Corporation As The Primary Grantee On Behalf Of The Gila River Indian Community For The FY2024 Small Ambulatory Program For American Indians And Alaska Natives (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)  
Presenter: GRHC Board of Directors, Mario Torres, Jr., Anna Self, Dr. Anthony Santiago  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
>28. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special Event Liquor License To The Chandler Compadres, Inc. For Use At The Rawhide Western Town & Event Center On November 2, 2024 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Casaundra Wallace  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Continued on Next Page*



>29. A Resolution Authorizing And Approving The Termination Of Per Capita Trust Accounts And Directing The Distribution Of Trust Assets To Certain Beneficiaries (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Katrina Johnson, Neomi Martinez  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>30. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Indian Community Liquor License To Gas & Travel Center LLC For Use At The Pilot Convenience Store Located Within The Wild Horse Pass Area At 17405 S. 40th Street Chandler, AZ (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Teresa Mandelin, Miranda Bustamante, JD Saran  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>31. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing The Service Agreement (C7618) Between The Gila River Indian Community, Gila River Gaming Enterprises And Moss Adams, LLP (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Adriana Espinosa, Mark Graham, Mike Jacobs, Neomi Martinez  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**ORDINANCES**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Court of Appeals Judge One (1) Appointment  
Presenter: Community Council  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT MR. YANCY JENCOSK TO THE COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE POSITION

2. Court of Appeals Judge Community Judge Two (2) Appointments  
Presenter: Community Council  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT MS. SYLVIA

GONZALEZ HOLLOWAY TO THE COURT OF APPEALS COMMUNITY JUDGE POSITION  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT MS. CHRISTINA RODRIGUEZ TO THE ALTERNATE COURT OF APPEALS COMMUNITY JUDGE POSITION

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. GRICUA Capital Project Presentation (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business)  
Presenter: Ken Stock  
ITEM HEARD

2. Site Tour Invitation to Community Council (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend on November 1-3, 2024 utilizing Dues & Delegations)  
Presenter: Barney Enos, Jr.  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CONSIDER THE SITE TOUR DATES FOR ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND FOR NOVEMBER 23-25, 2024 AND JANUARY 19-21, 2025 UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS

>3. Gila River Farms FY25 Initial Budget (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business as information)  
Presenters: Gila River Farm Board, Benito Alvarez, Jr., Kimberly Fisher  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Legislative Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (1) Council Seat (LSC forwards to Council to declare (1) Council seat vacancy on the Legislative Standing Committee and to appoint at the October 16, 2024 Council Meeting)  
Presenter: Legislative Standing Committee  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION, DECLARE ONE (1) COUNCIL SEAT VACANCY FOR THE LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE AND APPOINT AT THE OCTOBER 16, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT FRANKLIN PAB-

LO, SR. TO THE LEGISLATIVE STANDING COMMITTEE

5. Economic Development Standing Committee Declaration of Vacancy to the Community Council – (1) Council Seat (EDSC forwards to Council with a recommendation to accept the resignation and declare (1) Council Seat Vacancy and appoint at the October 16, 2024 Council Meeting)  
Presenter: Economic Development Standing Committee  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION, DECLARE ONE (1) COUNCIL SEAT VACANCY FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE AND APPOINT AT THE OCTOBER 16, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPOINT LEAH WILLIAMS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

**MINUTES**

1. September 30, 2024 (Special)  
APPROVED

2. October 2, 2024 (Regular)  
APPROVED

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- WHPDA BOARD MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.
- MONEY MANAGERS PRESENTATION ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024 AT WILD HORSE PASS CASINO WITH BREAKFAST BEGINNING AT 8:00 A.M.
- MEMORIAL AIRFIELD OWNER'S TEAM MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 AT 3:30 P.M.
- POLICE CONSTRUCTION OWNER'S TEAM MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M. VIA WEBEX

**ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:29 A.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)  
> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

# Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • Nov. 6, 2024

**ACTION SHEET**  
Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729  
CALL TO ORDER  
The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, November 6, 2024, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Governor Stephen R. Lewis at 9:12 a.m.

**INVOCATION**  
Provided by Councilwoman Ann Lucas

**ROLL CALL**  
Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll  
Executive Officers Present:  
Governor Stephen R. Lewis  
Lt. Governor Regina Antone  
Council Members Present:  
D1- Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Jennifer Allison, Leah Williams, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth(9:37), Terrance Evans; D7- Devin Redbird  
Council Members Absent:  
D1- Joey Whitman

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORTS #3, #6, #7, AND #8; RESOLUTIONS #12 AND #17; AND NEW BUSINESS #3 AND #4 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL AND ADD MS. SHEILA FLORES, ACTING ENROLLMENT DIRECTOR AS A PRESENTER FOR THE ENROLLMENT RESOLUTIONS  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #1, #2, #4 AND #9; ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #10, #14, AND #15 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS #1 AND APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**

1. Introduction of Ira Hayes Memorial Library Librarian – Melanie Toledo-Matteson  
Presenters: Lance Reyna, Melanie Toledo-Matteson  
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**REPORTS**

>1. Pee-Posh Veterans' Association 3rd Quarter, 4th Quarter and Annual Budget Report  
Presenters: Arnie Bread, Sr., Veronica Kinsel  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Community Technology Center 2023/2024 4th Quarter and Annual Report  
Presenter: Connie Jackson  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. MIS Remediation Report  
Presenters: Chris R. Cabanillas, Preston Soke, IT Ad Hoc Committee  
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Digital Inclusion Study Report  
Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Mikhail Sundust, GRTI Board of Directors

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. Gila River People Foundation Update  
Presenters: GRPF Board of Directors, Dr. Anthony Santiago, Judith Roth, Robert Yoder  
REPORT HEARD

>6. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Allocation Annual Report SY2023-2024  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Kim Franklin  
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. Gila Crossing Community School Tribal Allocation Annual Report SY2023-2024  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Jim Mosley  
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) Biennial Report  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Tamara Thompson  
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. GRICUA FY24 Q3 Report  
Presenter: Ken Stock  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council September 2024 (Executive Session)  
Presenters: Gila River Gaming Commission, M. Scott Sander-son, Lydia Acosta  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report September 2024 (Executive Session)  
Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic Orozco, Blake Katsnel-son, Tony DeMark, Interim Oversight & Planning Committee  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. Schedule of Investments ending September 30, 2024 (Executive Session)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

GOVERNOR LEWIS SUSPENDS THE RULES WITHOUT OBJECTION AND ADD NEW BUSINESS #5 DPW INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES CEOT/WHPDA, AND TO BE HEARD BEFORE RESOLUTIONS  
[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

**NEW BUSINESS**

5. DPW infrastructure issues CEOT/WHPDA  
Presenter: Community Council  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT AND AUTHORIZE GOVERNOR TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO COORDINATE AND DIRECT DPW TO ENTER INTO AN MOU WITH CEOT, GRD AND TRC TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN THE COMMUNITY’S WATER SERVICES WITHIN THE GRD AREA INCLUDING THE ALLOWANCE OF PERFORMING ALL NECESSARY COMMUNITY WATER OPERATIONS AT LEVEL 4 OPERATORS OR AS NEEDED. IN ADDITION REQUIRE A REPORT TO G&MSC WITHIN 45 DAYS

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT DPW TO TURN OVER ALL WATER OPERATIONS TO CEOT AND GRD OVER

GILA RIVER DEVELOPMENT. DIRECTING DPW TO TRANSITION ALL WATER OPERATIONS TO CEOT/GRD SO THAT CEOT/GRD HAS A DEDICATED WATER SUPPLY WHICH IS INDEPENDENT OF THE COMMUNITY’S WATER SUPPLY. THE COMMUNITY’S WATER SUPPLY TO THE GRD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A REDUNDANT SUPPLY. LASTLY, CEOT/GRD SHALL PRESENT A BUDGET TO G&MSC TO IMPLEMENT THESE DIRECTIVES

**RESOLUTIONS**

>1. A Resolution Authorizing A Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The Federal Emergency Management Agency Integrated Public Alert And Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)  
Presenters: Bruce Harvey, Zachary Picciotti, Adam Sainz, Wade Brennon  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special Event Liquor License To Community Comadres Foundation For Use At The Wild Horse Pass Festival Grounds On November 22, 2024 And November 23, 2024 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter Casaundra Wallace  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A Temporary Special Event Liquor License To The Chemo Companions, Inc. For Use At The Wild Horse Pass Festival Grounds On November 30, 2024 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Casaundra Wallace  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Allotments 4770, 1446, And 1446) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC forwards with a recommendation for approval with corrections and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Talia Apkaw, Eugene Blackwater, Kimberly Cooper, Javier Ramos  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. A Resolution Authorizing The Exchange Of Community Trust Land For Interest In An Allotment Located Within The Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River Indian Reservation (Community Trust Land And Allotment 3464) (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Talia Apkaw, Eugene Blackwater, Kimberly Cooper, Javier Ramos  
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Gila River Indian Community Police Department And The Pinal County Attorney's Office To Participate In The Na-

*Continued on Next Page*



tional Integrated Ballistic Information Network (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Jeffery Hunter

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community Police Department And The City Of Phoenix Police Department For Mutual Protection And Assistance (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Jeffery Hunter

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community Police Department And The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office For Mutual Protection And Assistance (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Jeffery Hunter

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. A Resolution Approving A Grant Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The State Of Arizona, Governor’s Office Of Highway Safety For DUI Enforcement Overtime And Approving A Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity Limited To Arbitration (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with amendments to strike the 9th Whereas and the 2nd Be It Further Resolved and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Jeffery Hunter

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>10. A Resolution Approving A Grant Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And The State Of Arizona, Governor’s Office Of Highway Safety For STEP Enforcement And Approving A Limited Waiver Of Sovereign Immunity Limited To Arbitration (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with amendments to strike the 9th Whereas and the 2nd Be It Further Resolved and placement on the consent agenda; LSC concurs)

Presenters: Jeffery Hunter

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[RESOLUTION REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA]

>11. A Resolution Authorizing The Creation Of The Gila River Indian Community Day Worker Program (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: TeriLynne Kisto

APPROVED

>12. A Resolution Rescinding Resolution GR-047-22 And Approving The Amended Community Services Department’s District Assistance Programs Policies And Procedures (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)

Presenters: Laurie A. Thomas, Joanne Brewer

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

13. A Resolution Establishing A Temporary Maximum Debt Ceiling For The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority In Order To Construct The Lone Butte Solar Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; EDSC concurs)

Presenter: Ken Stock

APPROVED

>14. A Resolution Approving The Attached Attorney Contract For A Senior Counsel (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Javier Ramos, Michael Carter

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>15. A Resolution Modifying Special Use Permit Provision 2C Of Article IX Amending GR-102-24 For The Blackwater Plant Parcel Shown In Drawing No. 40124-0049-TP (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Planning Development Team, Kimberly Cooper, Gila River Sand & Gravel

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Serena Grace Penalozza Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela, Justin Norris

APPROVED

17. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Bennett Scoffer Jr. Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela, Kayla Miguel

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

18. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Enrique Thomas Munoz Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela, Kayla Miguel

APPROVED

19. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Daniel Stephen Pasqual Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with recommendation for approval with corrections)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela, Sheila Flores

APPROVED

20. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Shane Drake Pasqual Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela, Sheila Flores

APPROVED

21. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Demetria Lani Ferreira Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela, Irvina Pablo

APPROVED

22. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Ira Jeremiah Hinton Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela, Irvina Pablo

APPROVED

23. A Resolution Approving The Reinstatement Of Elgin William Jones Into The Membership Of The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Sheila Valenzuela, Justin Norris

APPROVED

**ORDINANCES**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Application for Exclusion from The Gila River Indian Reservation (Executive Session) (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation that the Community Council set a Special Meeting under the Gila River Community Code Section 8.102 to determine whether non-member Andrew Demorest should be excluded and removed from the Community)

Presenters: Lorenzo Sierra IV, Javier G. Ramos, Michael Carter  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SET A SPECIAL MEETING UNDER THE GILA RIVER COMMUNITY CODE SECTION 8.102 TO DETERMINE WHETHER NON-MEMBER ANDREW DEMOREST SHOULD BE EXCLUDED AND BE REMOVED FROM THE COMMUNITY

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SERVE ANDREW DEMOREST WITH THE EXCLUSION APPLICATION THROUGH THE PUBLICATION IN THE GRIN AND WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT TO SERVE IN PERSON OR BY CERTIFIED MAIL DUE TO MR. DEMOREST NOT HAVING A CURRENT ADDRESS

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Homeless Encampment Update (NRSC forwards to Council under New Business as FYI; H&SSC concurs)

Presenters: OCM, LUPZ, CSD, ESP, DEQ, TSS, GRPD, APS, DCH, THP, GRHC, Behavioral Health

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AS INFORMATION

2. 2024 Code of Conduct Training Requirements (LSC forwards

the 2024 Code of Conduct Training Requirements to Council under New Business with a recommendation for removal for non attendance of the required Code of Conduct Training: Jocelyn Young, Gila River Boys & Girls Club Board member, Antonio Davis, Gila River Boys & Girls Club Board Member and Adrianna Osife-Lewis D2 Housing Advisory Committee) (LSC forwards the 2024 Code of Conduct Training Requirements to Council under New Business with a recommendation for removal for non attendance of the required Code of Conduct Training: Charles Aragon, Associate Judge)

Presenters; Shannon White, Javier Ramos

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REMOVE JOCELYN YOUNG, GILA RIVER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOARD MEMBER, ANTONIO DAVIS, GILA RIVER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB MEMBER, AND ADRIANNA OSIFE-LEWIS, D2 HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR NON-ATTENDANCE OF THE REQUIRED ANNUAL CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO CAUCUS  
MEETING RECONVENED AT 2:46 P.M.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SANCTION JUDGE CHARLES ARAGON UNDER SECTION 1.502 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT TO A SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE WITHOUT PAY FOR 90 DAYS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY FOR JUDGE ARAGON’S FAILURE TO ATTEND THE MANDATORY CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR AN IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT UNDER ORDINANCE GR-06-14, TITLE 1, CHAPTER 4 THROUGH 6 OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY CODE. FURTHER, LSC AND COUNCIL SECRETARY IS DIRECTED TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CODE OF CONDUCT SHOULD BE REVISED OR RESCINDED, AND LSC SHALL PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WITHIN 120 DAYS

3. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan SY 2024-2025 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Kim Franklin

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Gila Crossing Community School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan for SY 2024-2025 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Jim Mosley

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[ADDENDUM TO AGENDA]

5. DPW infrastructure issues CEOT/WHPDA

Presenter: Community Council

HEARD AFTER REPORT #12

**MINUTES**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A JOINT CULTURAL RESOURCE STANDING COMMITTEE AND EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE WORK SESSION WITH THE U OF A REGARDING LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO LISA HENDRICKS, CCSO STANDING COMMITTEE ASSISTANT
- FOUR SOUTHERN TRIBES CULTURAL WORK GROUP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M. CASA GRANDE NATIONAL MONUMENT
- CARING HOUSE THANKSGIVING DINNER SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024 AT 10:30 A.M.
- GILA RIVER DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING IS CANCELED
- CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY AT GRICUA THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

**ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:51 P.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

# Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • Nov. 20, 2024

**ACTION SHEET**

Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Second Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, November 20, 2024, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Regina Antone at 9:03 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Provided by Councilman Joseph Manuel, Jr.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Lt. Governor Regina Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Jennifer Allison, Leah Williams, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth; D7- Devin Redbird(9:14)

Executive Officers Absent:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis (Travel)

Council Members Absent:

D3- Avery White (Travel)

D6- Terrance Evans (Illness)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO REMOVE RESOLUTION #1 FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA, TABLE RESOLUTION #6 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL, RESOLUTION #10 FOR INCORRECT SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL AND ON RESOLUTION #19 ADD “INTO THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY” AFTER FABIAN PATRICK RAMIREZ NAME  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE REPORTS #1 THROUGH #4, #6 THROUGH #10, RESOLUTIONS #4, #7, #8, #9 #11, #12 AND #13 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED

**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS**

1. Introduction of Ira Hayes Memorial Library Librarian – Melanie Toledo-Matteson

Presenters: Lance Reyna, Melanie Toledo Matteson

MR. LANCE REYNA INTRODUCED MS. MELANIE TOLEDO-MATTESON WHO HAS BEEN HIRED AS THE NEW LIBRARIAN FOR THE IRA HAYES MEMORIAL LIBRARY. MS. TOLEDO-MATTESON RECEIVED HER BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN HISTORY WITH A MINOR IN ETHNIC STUDIES FROM ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY AND RECEIVED HER MASTER’S DEGREE IN INFORMATION RESOURCES AND LIBRARY SCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. MS. TOLEDO-MATTESON IS THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK FOR THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS WELCOMED AND CONGRATULATED MS. TOLEDO-MATTESON ON HER NEW POSITION.  
2. Office of the Treasurer Introduction – Tecumseh Manuel, Procurement Director

Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Tecumseh Manuel

TREASURER GARY MIX INTRODUCED MR. TECUMSEH MANUEL AS THE NEW PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR. MR.

*Continued on Next Page*



MANUEL IS A COMMUNITY MEMBER FROM DISTRICT 3 WITH A DEEP ROOTED COMMITMENT TO HIS COMMUNITY. MR. MANUEL HAS BEEN EMPLOYED WITH THE COMMUNITY FOR 20 YEARS IN THE PROPERTY & SUPPLY DEPARTMENT IN VARIOUS POSITIONS. MR. MANUEL HAS A SOLID BACKGROUND IN PROCUREMENT, WAREHOUSING, AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATED MR. MANUEL ON HIS NEW ROLE AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM.

REPORTS

- \*1. MIS Remediation Report  
Presenters: Chris R. Cabanillas, Preston Soke, IT Ad Hoc Committee  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- \*2. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Allocation Annual Report SY2023-2024  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Kim Franklin  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- \*3. Gila Crossing Community School Tribal Allocation Annual Report SY2023-2024  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Jim Mosley  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- \*4. Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) Biennial Report  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Tamara Thompson  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. Bonfire eProcurement System  
Presenters: Tecumseh Manuel, Valerie Bustos, Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
REPORT HEARD
- >6. 4th Quarter Budget for American Legion Haskell Osife Antone Post 51  
Presenters: Gary Rodriguez, Avery White  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >7. Blackwater Community School Tribal Allocation Annual Report SY2023-2024  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Jagdish Sharma  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >8. Sacaton Elementary School Tribal Allocation Annual Report SY2023-2024  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Stephanie Celis  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >9. Sacaton Middle School Tribal Allocation Annual Report SY2023-2024  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Don Schopp  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >10. St. Peter Indian Mission School Tribal Allocation Annual Report SY 2023-2024  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Sister Martha Carpenter  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- RESOLUTIONS
- [REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA]
- \*1. A Resolution Rescinding Resolution GR-047-22 And Approving The Amended Community Services Department’s District Assistance Programs Policies And Procedures (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; H&SSC concurs)  
Presenters: Laurie A. Thomas, Joanne Brewer  
APPROVED
- \*2. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Bennett Scoffer Jr. Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Sheila Flores, Kayla Miguel  
APPROVED
3. A Resolution Authorizing The Gila River Indian Community’s Department Of Environmental Quality To Enter Into A Partnership Agreement With Gila River Health Care To Submit A Grant Request To The United States Environmental Protection Agency (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; NRSC & H&SSC concur)  
Presenters: GRHC Board of Directors, Dr. Anthony Santiago, Carolyn Thompson, Anna Self, Callista Kaler, Lisa Gover  
APPROVED
- >4. A Resolution Approving The First Amendment To The System Conservation Agreement To Conserve 78,000 Acre-Foot Of Community CAP Water As Agreed Under The Reclaimed Water Pipeline Project Financial Assistance Agreement (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with amendments and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC concurs)  
Presenters: Jason Hauter, Javier Ramos, Michael Carter  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Amendment #1 To The Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And

- Yoder & Langford, P.C. For Fiscal Year 2024 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Javier Ramos  
APPROVED
6. A Resolution Approving A Project Budget & Funding For The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority’s Lone Butte Solar Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >7. A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Gila River Indian Community And Kruggel, Lawton, And Company LLC. For Fiscal Year 2025 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >8. A Resolution Amending Suzanne Brown’s Tribal Homesite Assignment/Agreement By Dividing The Parcel Into Two Separate Parcels Located In District 1 Within The Gila River Indian Reservation And Approving A Fifty Year Homesite Assignment/Agreement For Michael Brown (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, Suzanne Brown, Michael Brown  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >9. A Resolution Amending Odelia Jose Tribal Homesite Assignment/Agreement By Dividing The Parcel Into Two Separate Parcels Located In District Four Within The Gila River Indian Reservation And Approving A Fifty Year Homesite Assignment/Agreement For Monica Norris (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, Odelia Jose, Monica Norris  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >10. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Joseph Manuel, Jr. Located In District Three Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated as Drawing No. 40322-0246 (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, Joseph Manuel, Jr.  
TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >11. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Geraldine Juan Located In District Five Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated As Drawing No.40521-0072 (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, Geraldine Juan  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >12. A Resolution Amending Gloria Suchta’s Tribal Homesite Assignment/Agreement By Dividing The Parcel Into Two Separate Parcels Located In District 6 Within The Gila River Indian Reservation And Approving A Fifty Year Homesite Assignment/Agreement For Manuela Acosta (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, Gloria Suchta, Manuela Acosta  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- >13. A Resolution Amending Juanita Armenta’s Tribal Homesite Assignment/Agreement By Dividing The Parcel Into Two Separate Parcels Located In District Six Within The Gila River Indian Reservation And Approving A Fifty Year Homesite Assignment/Agreement For Roxanne Hutchinson (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)  
Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, Juanita Armenta, Roxanne Hutchinson  
ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA
14. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Adira Shay Joaquin Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Sheila Flores  
APPROVED
15. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Brailey Mae Joaquin Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)

- Presenter: Sheila Flores  
APPROVED
16. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Cadence Leillani Joaquin Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Sheila Flores  
APPROVED
17. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Meytaliah Jay Joaquin Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Sheila Flores  
APPROVED
18. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Lynnette Marie Stewart Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Sheila Flores  
APPROVED
19. A Resolution Approving The Petition For Membership For Fabian Patrick Ramirez Into The Gila River Indian Community (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Sheila Flores  
APPROVED
20. A Resolution Approving Bradley Leotus Elias Jr.’s Voluntary Relinquishment Of Membership From The Gila River Indian Community And Removing His Name From The Membership Roll (LSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenter: Sheila Flores  
APPROVED
- ORDINANCES
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS
- \*1. Casa Blanca Community School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan SY 2024-2025 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Kim Franklin  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
- \*2. Gila Crossing Community School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan for SY 2024-2025 (ESC forwards to Council under New Business with recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Jim Mosely  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
3. Blackwater Community School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan SY 2024-2025 (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval)  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Jagdish Sharma  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
4. Sacaton Elementary School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan SY 2024-2025 (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections)  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Stephanie Celis  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
5. Sacaton Middle School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan SY 2024-2025 (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections)  
Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Don Schopp  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE
6. AAIA 10TH Annual Repatriation Conference February 25-27, 2025, Marksville, LA (CRSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)  
Presenters: Reylynne Williams, Darius Enos, Larry Benallie, Jr.  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS
7. 2024 CRWUA Annual Conference December 4-6, 2024 – Las Vegas, NV (CRSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)  
Presenters: Cultural Resource Standing Committee  
MOTION MADE AND SECOND FOR ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES & DELEGATIONS
- MINUTES
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- THE CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR EMPLOYEES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON DECEMBER 6, 2024
- PERFORMANCE BASED BUDGETING SESSION UPDATE
- ADJOURNMENT
- MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:15 A.M.
- \* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)
- > Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

# Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • Dec. 4, 2024

ACTION SHEET

Community Council; P.O. Box 2138; Sacaton, Arizona 85147; Phone (520) 562-9720; Fax (520) 562-9729

CALL TO ORDER

The First Regular Monthly Meeting of the Community Council held Wednesday, December 4, 2024, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Regina Antone at 9:06 a.m.

INVOCATION

Provided by Councilman Terrance B. Evans

ROLL CALL

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll  
Executive Officers Present:  
Governor Stephen R. Lewis(9:16)  
Lt. Governor Regina Antone  
Council Members Present:

D1- Joey Whitman, Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas; D3- Avery White, Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Jennifer Allison, Leah Williams, Nada Celaya, Lalena Jackson; D5- James De La Rosa, Franklin Pablo, Sr., Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.; D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Goldtooth  
Council Members Absent:

*Continued on Next Page*



D7- Devin Redbird

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TABLE REPORT #3 AND RESOLUTION #3 FOR NON-SUBMITTAL OF MATERIAL MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE REPORTS #1, #2, #4 THROUGH #16, ACCEPT AND APPROVE RESOLUTIONS #2 AND #4, AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE NEW BUSINESS #2 AND #3 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDAAS AMENDED PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction – Tribal Social Services Director, Ms. Carol Colmenero

Presenter: Suzanne Jones, Carol Colmenero

MS. SUZANNE JONES INTRODUCED MS. CAROL COLMENERO AS THE RECENTLY HIRED TRIBAL SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR. MS. COLMENERO HOLDS A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK FROM ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A MASTER’S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK FROM WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. MS. COLMENARO WAS EMPLOYED WITH THE SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FIELD, DIRECTOR FOR THE FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTER AND THERAPIST ON THE CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM. MS. COLMENARO LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE HEALTHY FUTURES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HEALING FROM INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA. VARIOUS COUNCIL MEMBERS CONGRATULATED AND WELCOMED MS. COLEMENARO TO THE COMMUNITY AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HER AND PROVIDING SUPPORT.

REPORTS

>1. Gila River Farms FY24 Fourth Quarter Report

Presenters: Gila River Farm Board, Benito Alvarez, Jr., Kimberly Fisher

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. Lone Butte Development LLC FY 2024 Annual Report

Presenters: Christina Waquie, Karen Park, Jim Dean

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Gila River Telecommunications Inc. FY2024 Third Quarter Report

Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Craig Baumgartner, GRTI Board of Directors

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project FY2024 Annual Report (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Presenter: David DeJong

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. Gila River Indian Irrigation and Drainage District – FY 2024 Annual Report - (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Presenter: Ronald Allison

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. Defense Services Office FY2024 Annual Report (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024)

Presenter: Claude Jackson Jr.

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision FY-2024 Annual Report

Presenter: Ron Lopez

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. Gila River Indian Community Fire Department FY2024 Annual Report (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024)

Presenter: Kathy J. Garcia

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. Gila River Police Department FY 2024 Annual Report (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024)

Presenters: Jesse Crabtree, William T. Morago, Tamatha Villar, Jeffrey Hunter, William Lewis

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>10. Tribal Education Department Administration – FY2024 Annual Report (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024)

Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Lance Reyna

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>11. Child Development & Education Support Services – FY2024 Annual Report (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024)

Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Lance Reyna, Tamara Thompson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>12. K-12 Program – FY2024 Annual Report October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024

Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Lance Reyna

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>13. Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) Program – FY2024 Annual Report October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024

Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Lance Reyna, Arianna Jackson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>14. Employment & Training and TERO – FY24 Annual Report (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024)

Presenters: Lana Chanda, Antoinette Speer

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>15. Cultural Resource Management Program – FY 2024 Annual Report (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Presenters: Kyle Woodson, Michael Preston

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>16. Huhugam Heritage Center - FY 2024 Annual Report (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)

Presenter: Shirley Jackson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT REPORTS #17, #18, #19, AND #20

17. Gila River Gaming Commission Department Report to the Community Council October 2024 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Gila River Gaming Commission, M. Scott Sander-son, Lydia Acosta

ACCEPTED

18. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc. Monthly Report October 2024 (Executive Session) Presenters: Kenneth Manuel,Dominic Orozco, Blake Katsnelson, Tony DeMark, Myron Sundust, Inter-im Oversight & Planning Committee

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #17

19. Schedule of Investments ending October 31, 2024 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #17

20. Financial Activity Report ending October 31, 2024 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ACCEPTED AT REPORT #17

RESOLUTIONS

\*1. A Resolution Approving A Project Budget & Funding For The Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority’s Lone Butte Solar Project (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval; EDSC concurs)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

APPROVED

\*2. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50) Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For Joseph Manuel, Jr. Located In District Three Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And Designated as Drawing No. 40322-0246 (NRSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenters: Subdivision Administration Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz, Talia Apkaw, Joseph Manuel, Jr.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. A Resolution Approving The Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. Proposed Tower Construction At The Santan Road Site Under Business Lease B-GR-190 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda; NRSC & EDSC concur)

Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Rachel Wierson, Alan Waters, Joan Burke, GRTI Board of Directors

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. A Resolution Authorizing An Eleventh General Assistance Payment To Adult Gila River Indian Community Members From Available COVID-19 Relief Funds (G&MSC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ORDINANCES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. January 1, 2025 Regular Community Council Meeting

Presenter: Community Council

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO CANCEL THE JANUARY 1, 2025 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DUE TO THE MEETING FALLING ON A RECOGNIZED HOLIDAY

>2. Update Regarding Resolution GR-188-24 and Resolution GR-189-24 (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session as information and placement on the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Bartley Harris, Dominic Orozco, John Martin

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. FY2024 Annual Performance Report (APR) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval and placement on the consent agenda)

Presenter: Derwin Cooper

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. Proposed Comments to IRS (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation for approval with non-substantive and clarifying edits as necessary by the Office of General Counsel)

Presenter: Michael Carter, Javier G. Ramos

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH NON-SUBSTANTIVE AND CLARIFYING EDITS AS NECESSARY BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

5. FY 2024 Lone Butte Development Audit Wrap Up/ Audit Report/ Management Letter (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business with a recommendation to accept; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Chris Bitakis, Karen Park, Christina Waquie, Jim Dean

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE

6. Request to Schedule Council Work Session – Community Strategic Plan (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business for action)

Presenters: Treasurer Gary T. Mix, Stephen Olkewicz, Shima Arab

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO SCHEDULE A COUNCIL WORK SESSION REGARDING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

[GOVERNOR LEWIS CALLED FOR A 15 MINUTE BREAK; THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 10:30 A.M.]

7. Non-Member Resident Registration and Enforcement of Registration Requirements (LSC forwards the Non-Member Resident Registration and Enforcement of Registration Requirements to Council for discussion and potential action, specifically seeking clarification or revision of the 2nd half of the motion as stated in the Council Meeting of November 2nd)

Presenters: ENR, OCM, GRPD, DCH, LUPZ, MIS, DHD

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO RESCIND A MOTION MADE ON OCTOBER 2, 2024 “TO DIRECT THE GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT WORKING WITH THE ENROLLMENT DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE A CURRENT LIST OF EVERY NON-COMMUNITY MEMBER THAT HAS REGISTERED AND THAT EVERYONE ELSE THAT IS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT IS NOT ON THE LIST WILL BE TRESPASSING AND WILL BE TOLD TO LEAVE OR BE REMOVED FROM THE COMMUNITY MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO DIRECT THIS MATTER BACK TO LSC AND OGC REVIEW THE CODE TO ADDRESS THE NON-COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT HAVE NO DIRECT DESCENDANCY TO GRIC PIMA OR MARICOPA THAT HAVE NOT OFFICIALLY I MAKE A REGISTERED AS RESIDING IN THE COMMUNITY. LSC AND OGC WILL COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENTS AND CREATE OR DEFINE AN ENFORCEMENT PLAN

8. St. Peter’s Indian Mission School Tribal Education Allocation Written Plan SY2024-2025 (ESC forwards to Council with a recommendation for approval with corrections in the staff category incentives removing the \$150.00 and adding to Professional Training)

Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Lance Reyna, Sister Martha Mary Carpenter

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE WITH CORRECTIONS IN THE STAFF CATEGORY INCENTIVES REMOVING THE \$150.00 AND ADDING TO PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

9. Confidential Matter (Executive Session) (LSC forwards to Council in Executive Session with a recommendation to accept as FYI and possible action)

Presenter: Legislative Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE LETTER AS INFORMATION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. FY2024 Revenue Internal Audit (RIA) 4th Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenter: Dena Thomas

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. FY2024 Gaming Internal Audit (GIA) 4th Quarter Report (Executive Session) (G&MSC forwards to Council under New Business in Executive Session)

Presenter: Dena Thomas

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE FY2024 REVENUE INTERNAL AUDIT (RIA) 4TH QUARTER REPORT

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO ACCEPT THE FY2024 GAMING INTERNAL AUDIT (GIA) 4TH QUARTER REPORT

12. 37th Annual SWIAA, Inc. Conference January 20-23, 2025

Harrah’s Laughlin Resort & Casino Laughlin, NV (NRSC forwards to Council under New Business for any interested Council member to attend utilizing Dues & Delegations)

Presenter: Brian Davis, Sr.

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO APPROVE ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL TO ATTEND THE 37TH ANNUAL SWIAA, INC. CONFERENCE JANUARY 20-23, 2025 HARRAH’S LAUGHLIN RESORT & CASINO LAUGHLIN, NV THROUGH DUES & DELEGATIONS

MINUTES

1. October 16, 2024 (Regular)

APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS

2. November 20, 2024 (Regular)

APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• GILA RIVER FARM BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M.

• THE GWA PAYMENT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON DECEMBER 9, 2024, CHECKS WILL BE MAILED OUT ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024

• HOUSING OWNERS TEAM MEETING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:15 A.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meeting(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM



61<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL FAIR & RODEO  
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