



## Gila River Fire Department honored with Freedom Award

Emma Hughes  
Gila River Indian News

The Gila River Fire Department (GRFD) has been recognized with the prestigious Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest honor the U.S. Department of Defense gives employers who support National Guard and Reserve Service members.

The award acknowledges the department's commitment to service members by providing flexible scheduling, career development opportunities, and unwavering support for employees who serve in the military.

Terry McCollom, military outreach coordinator for Arizona, presented the Employer Support Freedom award and individual Patriotic Employer awards to GRFD's Chief Kathy Garcia, Capt. Adrian Hernandez, Capt. Lloyd Gray, and S.C. Matthew Jairus Pierce, on Jan. 23.

According to McCollom, there are 2.2 million service members in active duty, 800,000 in the Guard Reserve, and only 45,000 employers employ reserve service members.

"To have an employer like the [Gila River] Fire Department treat a service member like they do is important," said McCollom. "30 years ago, or so, they started these awards, and the service member can nominate their employer if they feel that they were



**L-R: Gila River Firefighter Antonio Munoz, Military Outreach Coordinator Tom McCollom, Gila River Fire Chief Kathy Garcia, Capt. Adrian Hernandez, and S.C. Matthew Jairus Pierce during an award ceremony on Jan. 23.** Emma Hughes/GRIN

above and beyond, and there's no question in this particular case that they were definitely above and beyond."

Antonio Munoz nominated GRFD for their unwavering support after he sustained an injury and could not work during his recovery.

Munoz has been with the department for over 3 years and is part of the 610 CACs (Command and Control Squadron) reserve

unit with the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

"I got a pretty good injury to myself. I ruptured my Achilles tendon, and it completely put me out. I couldn't walk," said Munoz. "I was in crutches and a scooter for a while and during that whole time, the individuals that got selected really helped me out throughout the process, the transition, and then getting back to work."

Munoz explained that Garcia worked with him to hold his position in the department. At the same time, Gray ensured communications with everyone, and Hernandez reached out to check in and make sure recovery was going well.

"From his captain to his shift commander, to the training captain, it shows that everybody's looking out for each other and that's what I always strive for, to



**Award given to S.C. Matthew Jairus Pierce.** Emma Hughes/GRIN

take care of each other so I think these awards show that that is what we're doing," said Garcia who accepted the award, emphasizing the department's dedication to its employees and those who balance both firefighting and military duties.

"I was really surprised to be recognized. I didn't have any expectations or anything. I just came here to support the chief," said Hernandez.

It's a testament to the leadership that we currently have. I think it's an example of who our organization is, and what we are and what we're about," said Pierce. "I think that we value each and every one of our employees, but especially our military."

## SR 347/Riggs Road traffic interchange project moves to design phase

Press Release  
Arizona Department of Transportation

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has selected the design for reconstruction of the Riggs Road intersection at State Route 347 to separate traffic on a new bridge. This decision follows extensive agency and public involvement on potential design concept alternatives for the interchange, including public meetings in August 2024. The project is now in the final design phase.

The project will raise SR 347 on a new bridge over Riggs Road to provide free-flowing traffic movements at this location. SR 347 on- and off-ramps with traffic signals will provide access to and from Riggs Road. The project is designed to enhance safety, reduce traffic congestion and improve travel times to enhance



**A rendering of the selected design, which features SR 347 traffic traveling over Riggs.** Photo Courtesy of ADOT

regional mobility.

The project is a partnership between ADOT, the Gila River Indian Community and the Maricopa Association of Governments, in coordination with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The selected design, presented in the August public meetings

as Alternative B1, is a tight diamond design where the on- and off-ramps are in a diamond shape. The key elements of this design are:

- SR 347 traffic will travel on a new bridge over Riggs Road, which will remain at grade level.

- SR 347 will be shifted to the east and Riggs Road will be shifted to the south to avoid the Gila River Indian Community electrical substation.
- SR 347 will have two lanes in each direction; however, the project

will be designed and constructed to allow for future widening to three lanes in each direction.

- Riggs Road will have two lanes in each direction at the intersection, as well as a left-turn and right-turn lane in each direction to access SR 347.

The final Design Concept Report (DCR), which features the design concept for the interchange, is available on the project webpage.

The project is expected to complete design and be ready to advertise for construction by early 2026.

For more information, visit the project website, <https://azdot.gov/projects/central-district-projects/riggs-road-traffic-interchange-at-sr-347>.

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MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>-16<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

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

grhc.org

## Celebrating Excellence in Public Health!

We're thrilled to announce that the Gila River Health Care Public Health Nursing Program has been awarded the Outstanding Community Health Representative Program of the Year for the second consecutive year!

This achievement highlights the dedication and hard work of our Community Health Representative (CHR) Program team. A big thank you to everyone involved, and to the rest of the department for their unwavering support of these dedicated and compassionate staff members. We're also excited to recognize **Mindy Morris for being named Outstanding CHR of the Year!** Her outstanding contributions and commitment to our community are truly deserving of this honor.

**Congratulations to all! Keep up the amazing work, and thank you for all that you do to improve the health and well-being of our Community.**



## View our Health Update Newsletter for the month of February.

In this edition

### HEALTH UPDATES AND EDUCATION

- Cardiology Clinic Schedules
- Heart - FAQs
- What is Heart Disease?
- Dental
- Oral Health Tips for Children
- What Parents and Caregivers Can Do

**Scan QR code to view!**



**Behavioral Health Services**  
GILA RIVER HEALTH CARE

SCAN HERE



CHECK OUT OUR  
FEBRUARY  
CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

Access our monthly calendar online at [GRHC.ORG/BHS](http://GRHC.ORG/BHS).

Call us for more information at (520) 610-2394 or email us [BHSprevention@GRHC.ORG](mailto:BHSprevention@GRHC.ORG)

Behavioral Health Services invites you to join our educational programming in February 2025.


February 2025

- Active Parenting of Teens
- Yes to Life! & Narcan Booth
- Healthy Relationships
- Heroes Carry Narcan Booth
- Dangers of Meth
- Stress & Self Care
- Prevention Coalition
- Mental Health Awareness Line Dance
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Active Parenting

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: CALL OR TEXT 988

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





Governor  
**Stephen Roe Lewis**

Lt. Governor  
**Regina Antone**

Community Council  
Representatives

**District 1**  
Duane Jackson Jr.  
Joey Whitman

**District 2**  
Ann M. Lucas

**District 3**  
Avery White  
Joseph Manuel Jr.

**District 4**  
Jennifer Allison  
Nada Celaya  
Lalena Jackson  
Leah Williams

**District 5**  
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James De La Rosa  
Franklin Pablo Sr.  
Gordon Santos Jr.

**District 6**  
Anthony Villareal, Sr.  
Terrance B. Evans  
Charles Goldtooth

**District 7**  
Devin Redbird

Gary Mix, Tribal Treasurer  
Shannon White,  
Community Council Secretary

Gila River Indian News

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P.O. Box 459  
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Published letters or columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor or Gila River Indian Community.

LETTERS POLICY: GRIN welcomes letters and columns from readers. Letters *should be limited to 200 words* and be in good taste. Material that could be libelous or slanderous is not acceptable. All letters or columns should be signed with the writer's true name, address and telephone number in the event GRIN may need to contact the writer. *Only the name of the writer will be printed in the paper.* Letters or columns without a complete signature, name, address or phone number will not be acceptable to GRIN for publication. GRIN reserves the right to edit submitted materials for grammar, spelling, and content.

**Gila River Indian Community**  
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Sacaton, AZ 85147  
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# GRIC Employees honored for 20, 25, and 30 years of service to the Community



Gila River Indian Community's Human Resources Department held their annual "20 Year Club" luncheon at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse in Chandler on Jan. 29, in recognition of their long-standing employees. Over 30 employees were present to commemorate their years of service to the Community. Lt. Gov. Regina Antone thanked the employees for their outstanding dedication throughout the years and presented each of them with awards and gift certificates. Emma Hughes/GRIN

<b>30 Years:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Arturo Apodaca</li><li>•Keith Nelson</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Roella Fragua</li><li>•Lorin Jackson</li><li>•Michael Krout</li><li>•Chris Loendorf</li><li>•Leon Manuel</li><li>•Eloise Pedro</li><li>•Jairus Pierce</li><li>•Ricardo Stewart</li><li>•Jesse Zuniga</li></ul>	<b>20 Years:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Clifford Boss</li><li>•Eulalio Carrillo</li><li>•Layla Cisneros</li><li>•Phillina Cruz</li><li>•Daniel Duran</li><li>•Christina Hughes</li><li>•Taras Johns</li><li>•Maria Manzo</li><li>•Debra Marrietta</li><li>•Cecilia Martinez</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Neomi Martinez</li><li>•Elisa Montijo</li><li>•Amy Morago</li><li>•Linda Morgan</li><li>•Xiaofei Patton</li><li>•Carlos Rodriguez</li><li>•Esiquio Rodriguez</li><li>•David Thomas</li><li>•James Toomire</li><li>•Richard Weschrob</li><li>•Michael Withrow</li></ul>
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# DECLARATION OF VACANCY

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL SEATS

One Seat Per District:

**District 2 • District 3 • District 4 • District 5 • District 6 • District 7**

**DECLARATION PERIOD:**

**February 7, 2025 - February 21, 2025**

Any person who meets the qualifications listed below in accordance to the Constitution, may file a declaration of candidacy for office of Community Council during the declaration period.

Constitution & Bylaws (1960) of the GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

**ARTICLE VI – QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** No person shall be elected or hold office as Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge, Associate Judges or Councilman unless he:

1. Is a member of the Community;
2. Has reached the age of 25 years;
3. Has been living in the particular District he is to represent for at least 60 days immediately preceding the election;
4. Has been living on the Reservation for at least one year immediately preceding the election.

Additional qualifications may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

**Section 2.** No person who, within the year preceding the election, has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude shall be eligible to hold office in the Community.

**Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) forms will be available February 7.**

The form can be requested through e-mail at TEP@gric.nsn.us or picked up at the: Tribal Elections Office 291 W. Casa Blanca Road, Building 9, Sacaton, AZ

Completed forms must be returned in person to show original notary stamp/signature on form.

Please call prior to arrival for availability: (520)562-9735



★ VETERANS ★

ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Have you filed for Disability Claim?

**Submitted by**  
Veteran & Family Services Office

Some of you have filed claims in the past. Some conditions may have been approved, while other conditions were denied. No matter how long ago it was, have you considered re-opening denied claims?

The rules for the VA are ever changing. Your denied conditions can probably be re-opened which may lead to a higher disability rating and increasing your monthly compensation.

One of the many things accomplished by the PACT Act was allowing the VA to consider Toxic Exposure. This means that not only do they look at presumptive conditions, but now they

can look at the individual for location and chemical exposures because of your job specialty. You may not know that your medical conditions can be service connected. We are here to assist you in determining if your current medical conditions are connected to presumptive conditions and/or Toxic Exposures.

If you have never filed a claim, we encourage you to do so! We will walk you through the process and do most, if not all of your paperwork. VA compensation is non-reportable and non-taxable. The amounts can range from \$175 per month to almost \$4,000 per month. Please consider refileing. If you have service connected disabilities and pass away before your spouse, then there's a possibility that your spouse may qualify for a monthly benefit for the rest of their life. We can explain in advance what needs to be done for possible qualification for this benefit.

If you are an enrolled Tribal Veteran using the VA and your overall disability percentage is 40% or lower, then you qualify for a VA co-pay waiver! The Tribe in which you are enrolled doesn't matter. Our office can assist you in filing the document that will exempt you from co-pays for office visits and medications.

**Save the Dates:**  
**March 12<sup>th</sup>** we will host a Veteran's Round Table event. Location TBD  
**March 28<sup>th</sup>** we will host a Vietnam Veteran Day event. Location TBD.

Peer Specialist - US Army Darrell Whitman 520-610-2037  
Peer Specialist- USMC Wesley Rhodes 520-610-4383  
Veterans Service Officer – USMC Kim Skelton 520-610-7644  
VFSO Coordinator- USMC Ret. Eric White 520-610-8793  
Administrative Assistant -Samantha Jackson 520-610-5135

## Meet Libby.

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How to Get Started:

1. Download the Libby app or scan QR code
2. Search for **Ira Hayes Memorial Library**.
3. Enter your library card number (No Letters) & PIN.
4. If you don't have a library card or PIN, call us at **520-562-3225** OR
5. Stop by the Library for a card.
6. Borrow a title & start reading or listening!

### How to Recognize and Respond to a Natural Gas Leak

Natural gas lines can be buried anywhere, even where homes don't use natural gas. So it's important that EVERYONE knows how to recognize and respond to a natural gas leak.

#### SIGNS OF A LEAK MAY INCLUDE:

### SMELL

A distinct sulfur-like odor, similar to rotten eggs, even if it's faint or momentary.

### HEAR

A hissing or roaring coming from the ground or above-ground pipeline.

### SEE

Dirt or water blowing into the air, unexplained dead or dying plants or grass, or standing water continuously bubbling.

#### IF YOU SUSPECT A NATURAL GAS LEAK:

**DO...**

- ✓ **LEAVE.** Evacuate the area and inform others to do the same, leaving doors open as you exit.
- ✓ **CALL.** From a safe location, call **911** and Southwest Gas at **877-860-6020**, day or night. A Southwest Gas representative will respond as soon as possible.

**DON'T...**

- ✗ Smoke or use matches/lighters.
- ✗ Turn electrical switches, thermostats, or appliance controls on or off.
- ✗ Start/stop engines or use automated garage doors.

## 80th Anniversary

## Iwo Jima Flag Raising

**Military Parade and Flyover to begin at 8:30 AM. Ceremonies to follow at the Mathew B. Juan, Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park in Sacaton, AZ.**

*All Public and Veterans Groups are Welcome*

## Feb.22 2025

**Come Visit the Homeland of IRA H. HAYES**

Luncheon hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 84 with St. Peters Church and School. Event sponsored by American Legion Ira H. Hayes Post No. 84 and Auxiliary Unit No. 84. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 186, Sacaton, AZ, 85147 / Phone: 520.562.8484 / Fax: 520.562.3297 / Email: ihpost84@gilanet.net Web: www.iraheyestpost84.org





## Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning

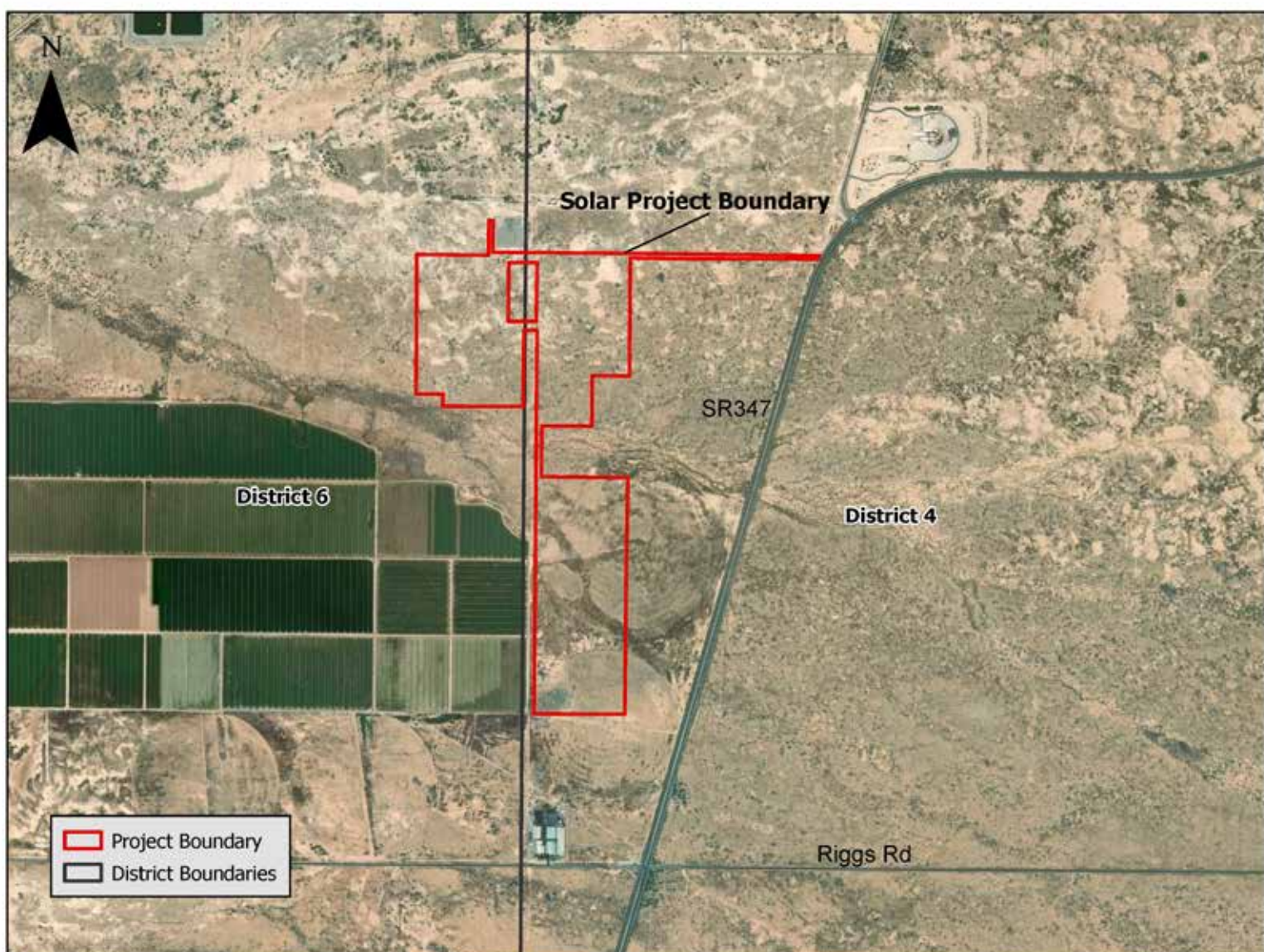
# PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Project Name: GRICUA Solar Project  
For: Zoning Change  
Location: West of State Route 347 & North of Riggs Road  
Date and Time of Public Hearing: February 22, 2025 at 9:00 AM  
Place: District Six Boys & Girls Club

Notice is hereby given that the Gila River Indian Community's Natural Resources Standing Committee on **Saturday, February 22, 2025** at **9:00 a.m.** in District Six at the Boys & Girls Club 5074 West Pecos Road Laveen, AZ 85339, will hold a public hearing to discuss and consider a Zoning Change Application submitted by Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority for their Solar Project site to be used for an electric generation facility.

The public hearing is to solicit public comments on the proposed Zoning Change and allow the Natural Resources Standing Committee to review and verify that the proposed Zoning Change, as it is submitted, contains such requirements and safeguards as are necessary to protect adjoining property and the public's health and safety.

Public comments can be submitted prior to the public hearing by emailing the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning at [LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us](mailto:LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us) and cc [PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us](mailto:PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us). Any questions may be directed to Corinna Ortiz, Project Manager at [PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us](mailto:PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us) or at (520) 562-6003.



If you have any questions, please contact Planning Development Team at Department of Land Use Planning & Zoning (520) 562-6003 Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

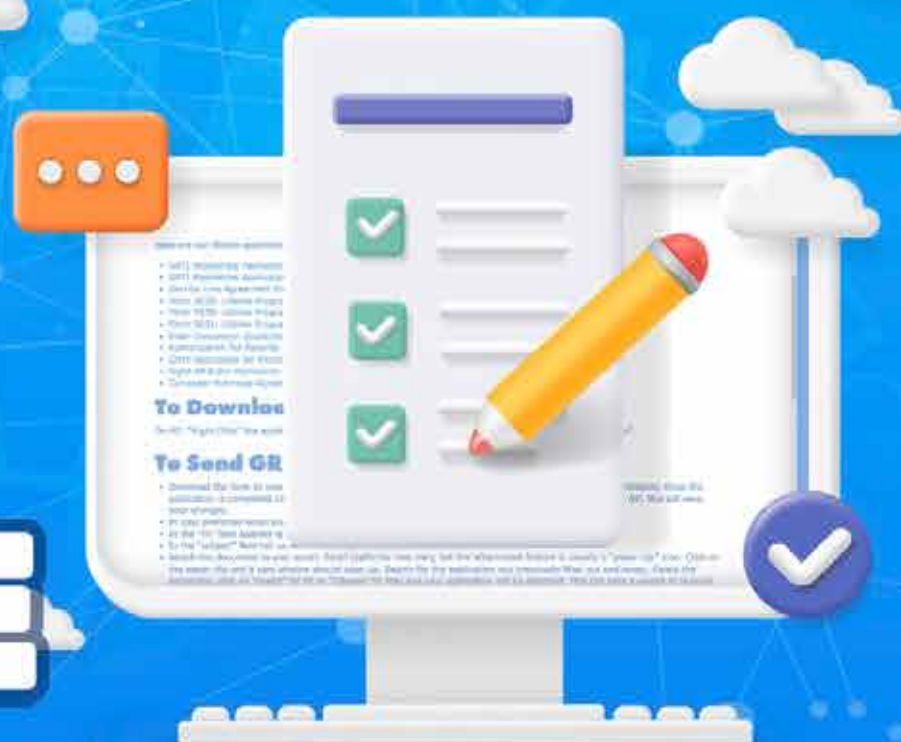


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MISSING PERSONS

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE GILA RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

<div>CLAYTON WAHPETA</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 06/03/2005 Age: 37 Sex: M Hair: Black(shaved) Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 190</div>	<div>PETER THOMAS</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 08/03/2007 Age: 47 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 190</div>	<div>JOSEPH UGALDE</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 05/14/2009 Age: 43 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 200</div>	<div>ANTHONY PORTER</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 10/15/2011 Age: 48 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'6" Weight: 210</div>	<div>KERMIT BREAD</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 04/11/2014 Age: 39 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 150</div>	<div>CYNTHIA ACEVEDO</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 08/31/2019 Age: 39 Sex: F Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'4" Weight: 230</div>	<div>TONY GUTIERREZ</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 09/16/2022 Age: 37 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'11" Weight: 350</div>
<div>LORENZO JOSE</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 08/29/2024 Age: 17 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'9" Weight: 170</div>	<div>EMMANUEL BARRERA</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 09/01/2024 Age: 20 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'7" Weight: 175</div>	<div>ELEIJAH BROWN</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 11/01/2024 Age: 14 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'4" Weight: 145</div>	<div>VINCENT BAPTISTO</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 11/20/2024 Age: 44 Sex: M Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'11" Weight: 250</div>	<div>RAYONNAH MIX</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 12/06/2024 Age: 14 Sex: F Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Height: 5'5" Weight: 125</div>	<div>NATALIE LOPEZ</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 02/11/2025 Age: 15 Sex: F Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Height: 5'6" Weight: 130</div>	<div>AURORA TORRES</div> <div></div> <div>Last seen: 02/14/2025 Age: 12 Sex: F Hair: Burgundy Eyes: Brown Height: 5'2" Weight: 102</div>

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

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Announcements & Notices

**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.**


Gila River Indian Community Youth Grades 4-12 Are Invited To Enter The 2025 Tribal Education...


**ART & ESSAY CONTEST!**

Entries Are Due By  
**5 PM, February 28th**

**Enter Today!**







Prizes For 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place In Each Age Group!

Gila River Indian Community -Tribal Education Department  
P: 520-562-3662 [www.gricted.com](http://www.gricted.com)

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PROUDLY PRESENTS...**

**EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**

**MARCH 28, 2025**






**124 SKILL CENTER RD.  
SACATON, AZ 85147  
10:00AM - 2:00PM**

**[TISON.GILL.DEQ@GRIC.NSN.US](mailto:TISON.GILL.DEQ@GRIC.NSN.US) OR (520) 610-9950 FOR DETAILS**

**Do It Yourself Bike Repair Days**

Tubes, cables, chains, brake pads, tools and know how will be provided for free.  
Bring bikes and be ready to learn.



Free for all residents of the Gila River Indian Community

**SACATON POST OFFICE PARKING LOT  
THE 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS OF EACH MONTH 9AM-NOON  
QUESTIONS: CALL/TEXT ELISHA  
520-858-2774**



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Instructional Assistants (5) – Starting Salary @ \$20.23
- Teacher Assistants (2) - Starting Salary @ \$17.96
- Elementary Teachers (4) – Starting Salary @ \$53,690.00
- E.S.S. Teachers (2) – Starting Salary @ \$53,690.00
- Cultural Specialist-Part-time (2) – DOE
- FACE Teacher (1) – Starting Salary @ 53,690.00
- FACE Parent Educator (1) – Starting Salary @ \$20.23

**School Information:**  
Casa Blanca Community School is located in District 5 in Bapchule, Arizona a few miles from Interstate 10 and 25 miles south of Phoenix Metropolitan Area (15–20-minute drive). Our district is located on the Gila River Indian Reservation south of Chandler, Arizona.

**How to apply:**  
For more information and online application please visit: [www.cbcschools.com](http://www.cbcschools.com)


**Contact Information & School Location:**  
For additional information regarding a position, contact the Human Resources Office at (520) 315-3489 ext. 2531. Casa Blanca Community School is located at 5297 West Nelson Road, Bapchule, Arizona.





YOUTH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP



DISTRICT 7

CLEAN UP EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED

FEBRUARY 22, 2025

START TIME: 7AM

LOCATION:  
75TH AVE. & DOBBINS RD.  
MARICOPA COLONY, AZ 85339

For more information contact:  
[Youthcouncil@gric.nsn.us](mailto:Youthcouncil@gric.nsn.us) or 520-562-1866

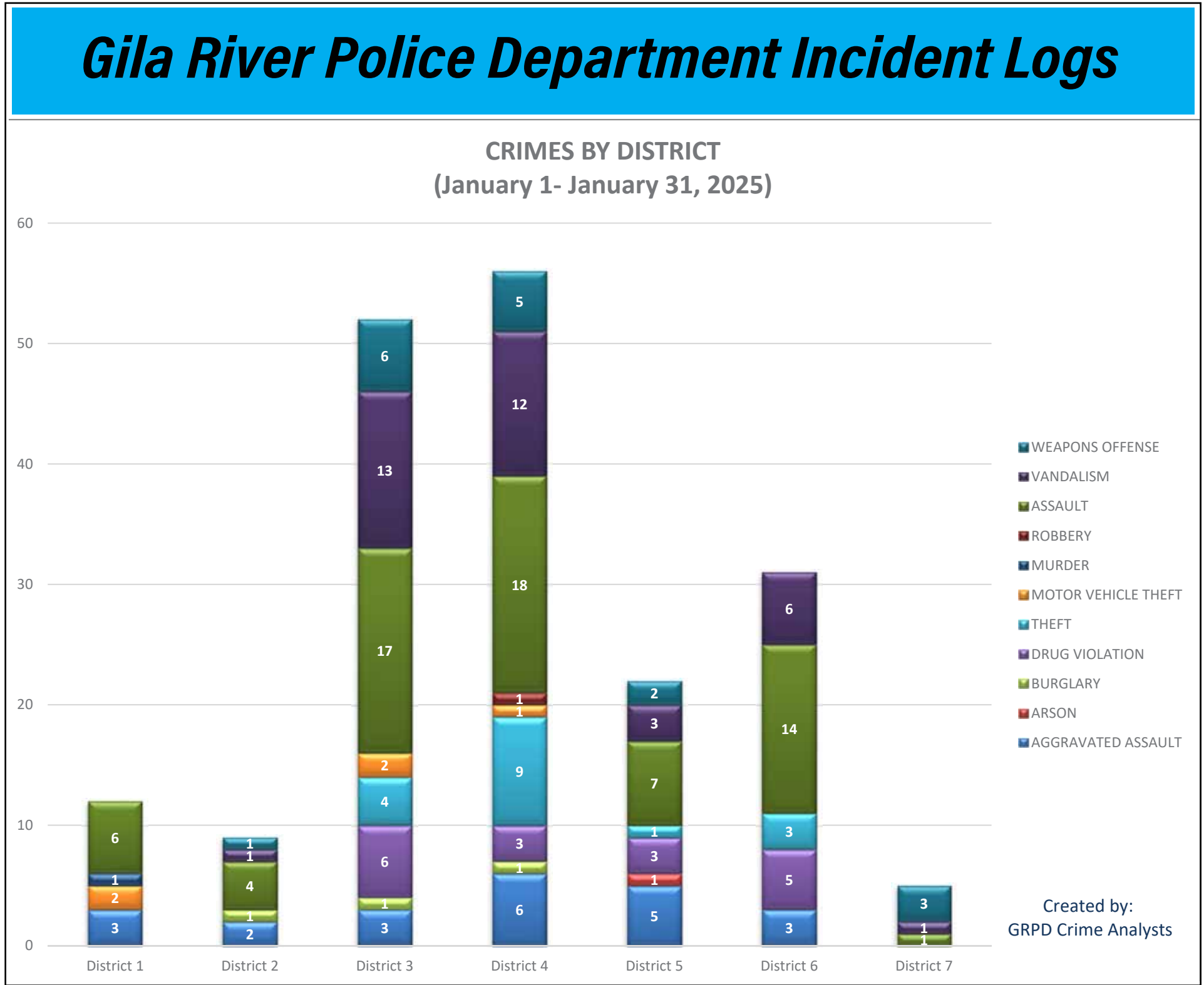
District 7

Community Meetings

SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR 2025	
	JANUARY 13, 2025
FEBRUARY 3, 2025	FEBRUARY 18, 2025
MARCH 3, 2025	MARCH 17, 2025
MARCH 31, 2025	APRIL 14, 2025
MAY 5, 2025	MAY 19, 2025
JUNE 2, 2025	JUNE 16, 2025
JUNE 30, 2025	JULY 14, 2025
AUGUST 4, 2025	AUGUST 18, 2025
SEPTEMBER 1, 2025	SEPTEMBER 15, 2025
SEPTEMBER 29, 2025	OCTOBER 13, 2025
NOVEMBER 3, 2025	NOVEMBER 17, 2025
DECEMBER 1, 2025	DECEMBER 15, 2025

Article 3, Section 1: Meetings will be held on the first Monday before every regular meeting of the Gila River Tribal Council Meeting, except in cases of unforeseen circumstances where the meeting will be rescheduled for the next available date. Meetings start at 6:30 pm.

Article 3, Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson. The Chairperson can call a special meeting upon written request of five (5) District 7 Community members.





# COMMUNITY COUNCIL ACTION SHEETS

## Courtesy of the Community Council Secretary’s Office • Feb. 5, 2025

**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, February 5, 2025, in the Community Council Chambers at the Governance Center in Sacaton, Arizona was called to order by Lt. Governor Regina Antone at 9:08 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Provided by Councilman Franklin Pablo, Sr.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Secretary Shannon White called the roll

Executive Officers Present:

Lt. Governor Regina Antone

Council Members Present:

D1- Duane Jackson, Jr.; D2- Ann Lucas;

D3- Joseph Manuel, Jr.; D4- Jennifer

Allison, Leah Williams, Nada Celaya; D5-

James De La Rosa(9:19), Franklin Pablo,

Sr., Brian Davis, Sr., Gordon Santos, Jr.;

D6- Anthony Villareal, Sr., Charles Gold-

tooth, Terrance Evans(9:16); D7- Devin

Redbird

Executive Officers Absent:

Governor Stephen R. Lewis

Council Members Absent:

D1- Joey Whitman(9th Circuit Court

Hearing)

D3- Avery White(9th Circuit Court Hearing)

D4- Lalena Jackson(9th Circuit Court

Hearing)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO TO  
TABLE REPORT #4 FOR NON-SUBMIT-  
TAL OF MATERIAL

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO  
APPROVE REPORT #1, #2, #3, AND #5  
THROUGH #11; ACCEPT AND APPROVE  
RESOLUTIONS #7, #9, #10 AND #14;  
AND ACCEPT AND APPROVE UNFIN-  
ISHED BUSINESS #1 ON THE CONSENT  
AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO  
APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS  
AMENDED

**PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS  
REPORTS**

>1. FY 2024 Tribal Projects Development  
Annual Report

Presenter: Phillip Schreiner

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>2. FY2024 TSS Annual Report

Presenters: Carol Colmenero, Christina

Lopez, Julian Garza, Curtis Slatina

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>3. Department of Public Works – FY2024  
Annual Report – (October 1, 2023-Sep-  
tember 30, 2024)

Presenter: DeWayne Badonie

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>4. Haskell Osife Antone Post 51 2025 1st  
Quarter Budget Report

Presenter: Gary Rodriguez

TABLED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>5. Community Technology Center

FY2024/2025 1st Quarter Report

Presenter: Connie Jackson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>6. FY2024 Annual Report – Office of  
Special Funding

Presenter: Cheryl Pablo

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>7. FY2024 Annual Report – Pension  
Administration

Presenter: Sharon Harvier

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>8. FY2024 Annual Report – Per Capita  
Presenters: Neomi Martinez, Katrina

Johnson

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>9. FY2024 Annual Report – Procurement

Presenter: Tecumseh Manuel

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>10. GRSG Quarterly Report FY24-Q4

Presenters: Michael H. Morago, Donna

Stowell, GRSG Board of Directors

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

>11. Pima Leasing & Financing Corpora-  
tion Annual Report FYE 09/30/2024

Presenter: Teresa Mandelin

ACCEPTED AT APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO GO  
INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

12. Gila River Gaming Commission De-  
partment Report to the Community Council  
December 2024 (Executive Session)

Presenters: Gila River Gaming Commis-  
sion, M. Scott Sanderson, Lydia Acosta

HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. Gila River Gaming Enterprises, Inc.  
Monthly Report December 2024 (Execu-  
tive Session)

Presenters: Kenneth Manuel, Dominic  
Orozco, Blake Katsnelson, Tony DeMark,

Interim Oversight & Planning Committee  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

14. Schedule of Investments ending De-  
cember 31, 2024 (Executive Session)

Presenter: Treasurer Gary T. Mix  
HEARD IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO EXIT  
EXECUTIVE SESSION

**RESOLUTIONS**

1. A Resolution Authorizing The Pur-  
chase Of Allotted Trust Land Within The  
Exterior Boundaries Of The Gila River  
Indian Reservation (Allotments 1098 And

4634) (G&MSC forwards to Council with  
a recommendation for approval; NRSC

concurs)

Presenters: Talia Apkaw, Kimberly Cooper,  
Javier Ramos

APPROVED

2. A Resolution Approving The Appoint-  
ment Of Kami Hart As A Children’s Court  
Judge For The Gila River Indian Com-  
munity (G&MSC forwards to Council with

a recommendation for approval with the  
amendments of striking the 5th and 6th

Whereas and their accompanying lines;  
LSC concurs)

Presenter: Governor Stephen R. Lewis,  
Javier Ramos, Michael Carter

APPROVED

3. A Resolution Approving The Appoint-  
ment Of Rachel Hernandez As A Chil-  
dren’s Court Judge For The Gila River  
Indian Community (G&MSC forwards to

Council with a recommendation for ap-  
proval with the amendments of striking the

5th and 6th Whereas and their accompa-  
nying lines; LSC concurs)

Presenter: Governor Stephen R. Lewis,  
Javier Ramos, Michael Carter

APPROVED

4. A Resolution Approving The Tribal  
Education Allocation Funds For Schools  
Located Within The Gila River Indian

Community Reservation (G&MSC for-  
wards to Council with a recommendation

for approval; ESC concurs)

Presenters: Sherilyn Analla, Lance Reyna  
APPROVED

5. 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 March 7, 2025 And March 8,  
2025 (G&MSC forwards to Council with a

recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Casaundra Wallace

APPROVED

6. A Resolution Of Consent To Grant A  
Temporary Special Event Liquor License  
To Community Comadres Foundation For

Use At The Sonoran Lawn At The Rawhide  
Western Town & Event Center On March

29, 2025 (G&MSC forwards to Council  
with a recommendation for approval)

Presenter: Casaundra Wallace

APPROVED

>7. A Resolution Authorizing Gila River  
Telecommunications, Inc. Operating  
Through Its Brand Digital Connect To

Submit A Grant Application For The State  
Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program For  
Native Entities (G&MSC forwards to Coun-  
cil with a recommendation for approval

and placement on the consent agenda;  
EDSC concurs)

Presenters: Clarice Chiago-Jones, Mikhail  
Sundust, GRTI Board of Directors

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT AP-  
PROVAL OF AGENDA

[REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA]

>8. A Resolution Approving An Assign-  
ment And Assumption Of Ground Lease  
BL 00000082 Between The Gila River  
Indian Community And Bayer Cropscience

LP to BASF Corporation, And Approving  
An Assignment And Assumption Of A

Groundwater Use Agreement From Bayer  
Cropscience LP To BASF Corporation  
(NRSC forwards to Council with a recom-  
mendation for approval and placement on

the consent agenda; EDSC concurs)

Presenters: John M. Martin, Teresa L.  
Mandelin, Bartley Harris

APPROVED

>9. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50)  
Year Homesite Assignment Agreement  
For Yvana Soto Located In District Three

Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And  
Designated As Drawing No.40323-0127  
(NRSC forwards to Council with a recom-  
mendation for approval and placement on

the consent agenda)

Presenters: Subdivision Administration  
Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz,  
Talia Apkaw, Yvana Soto

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT AP-  
PROVAL OF AGENDA

>10. A Resolution Approving A Fifty (50)  
Year Homesite Assignment Agreement For  
Lucinda Walker Located In District One

Of The Gila River Indian Reservation And  
Designated As Drawing No.40123-0270  
(NRSC forwards to Council with a recom-  
mendation for approval and placement on

the consent agenda)

Presenters: Subdivision Administration  
Team, Kimberly Cooper, Corinna Ortiz,  
Talia Apkaw, Lucinda Walker

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT AP-  
PROVAL OF AGENDA

11. A Resolution To Schedule A Special  
Council Meeting For A Revocation Hearing  
For The Homesite Assignment Of Lot 1,  
In The St. Johns Subdivision B, Located

In District Six Within The Gila River Indian  
Reservation Pursuant To Gila River Indian  
Community Code Section 20.215(C)  
(Executive Session) (NRSC forwards to

Council)

Presenters: Lorenzo Sierra IV, Javier G.  
Ramos, Michael Carter, Kimberly Cooper,  
Lynette Johns

APPROVED

12. A Resolution Approving The Petition  
For Membership For D’Angelo Handsome  
Logan Into The Gila River Indian Com-  
munity (LSC forwards to Council with a

recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Sara Duenez, Christy Siew-  
eyumtewa

APPROVED

13. A Resolution Approving The Petition  
For Membership For Alana Gail Beeson  
Into The Gila River Indian Community  
(LSC forwards to Council with a recom-  
mendation for approval with correction

requesting the CDIB from the relinquish-  
ing tribe for Alana to be submitted to the

02.05.2025 Council Meeting)

Presenters: Sara Duenez, Irvina Pablo

APPROVED

>14. A Resolution Certifying The Mem-  
bership Count Of The Gila River Indian  
Community As Of December 31, 2024  
(LSC forwards to Council with a recom-  
mendation for approval and placement on

the consent agenda)

Presenters: Sara Duenez, Breyanna Mix

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT AP-  
PROVAL OF AGENDA

15. A Resolution Approving The Tribal  
Collaboration Agreement For The Cyber-  
SW Digital Indigenous Field Guide Project  
Between The Gila River Indian Community  
And CyberSW (CRSC forwards to Council

with a recommendation for approval)

Presenters: Reylynn Williams, Caitlynn  
Mayhew, Joshua Watts, Darius Enos,  
Larry Benallie, Jr.

APPROVED

**ORDINANCES**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

>1. CyberSW Digital Indigenous Field  
Guide Grant Update (CRSC forwards to  
Council under Unfinished Business and  
placement on the consent agenda as

Information)

Presenters: Reylynn Williams, Caitlynn  
Mayhew, Joshua Watts, Darius Enos,  
Larry Benallie, Jr.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED AT AP-  
PROVAL OF AGENDA

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. American Bar Association’s Annual  
Indian Law Conference April 28-29, 2025 –  
Albuquerque, NM (LSC forwards to Coun-  
cil under New Business for any interested

Council Member to attend utilizing Dues &  
Delegations)

Presenter: Legislative Standing Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO

ALLOW ANY INTERESTED COUNCIL

MEMBER TO ATTEND UTILIZING DUES  
& DELEGATIONS

2. Tribal Member Concerns (CRSC for-  
wards to Community Council of Commu-  
nity Member Concerns of US Immigration  
Policy for possible Action)

Presenter: Cultural Resources Committee

MOTION MADE AND SECOND TO AC-  
CEPT AS INFORMATION

**MINUTES**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

• LITIGATION TEAM MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:32 A.M.

\* Denotes TABLED from previous meet-  
ing(s)

> Denotes a CONSENT AGENDA ITEM



# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

## 2025 COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION

COUNCIL SEATS OPEN:

District 2		District 3		District 4
District 5		District 6		District 7

<b>February 7, 2025</b>	<p><b><u>Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) OPENS</u></b> in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7. Any qualified elector of the Gila River Indian Community who has attained the age of twenty-five (25) may file for the Office of Councilman for the District in which he resides.</p> <p>DOC forms can be requested through email: TEP@gric.nsn.us or forms can be picked up at the Tribal Elections office, 291 W. Casa Blanca Rd., Bldg. 9.</p>
<b>February 21, 2025</b>	<p><b><u>Declaration of Candidacy (DOC) CLOSSES</u></b> for Community Council declarations in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7. DOC forms must be turned in to the Tribal Elections Office by 5:00 p.m.</p>
<b>February 27, 2025</b>	<p>Tribal Elections Program to route DOC applications received to Enrollment/Office of General Counsel/Human Resources to ascertain applicant qualifications for candidacy.</p>
<b>March 4, 2025</b>	<p>DOC forms return to the Tribal Elections Program.</p>
<b>March 5, 2025</b>	<p>Special Election Board meeting to determine candidate's residency qualifications.</p>
<b>March 19, 2025</b>	<p>Community Council to certify qualifications of candidacy for Community Council seats in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7.</p> <p><i>Sec. 2116 Community Council Elections D. 2. The certification of Council Candidates shall be conducted at the second regular Community Council meeting in March. All candidates must be in attendance.</i></p>
<b>March 25, 2025</b>	<p><b><u>Voter Registration CLOSSES</u></b> for the 2025 Community Council election. All applications must be received in the Tribal Elections Office by 5:00 p.m.</p>
<b>April 3, 2025</b>	<p><b><u>Absentee Voting Opens</u></b> for GRIC voter in District 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7 unable to vote in person on Election Day.</p>
<b>May 5, 2025</b>	<p><b><u>Absentee Voting Closes</u></b> at 5:00 p.m.</p>
<b>May 6, 2025</b>	<p><b>GRIC 2025 Community Council Election Day Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7.</b></p> <p><b>POLLING SITES ARE OPEN 6:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.</b></p> <p>Absentee Ballots not returned by mail can be dropped off at any polling site until 6:00 p.m.</p>
<b>May 9, 2025</b>	<p>DEADLINE: for protest to the election. Any registered voter shall be allowed to file a protest in writing to the Election Board Chairperson within 3 business days following the election. Protests must be received before 5:00 p.m.</p>
<b>May 21, 2025</b>	<p>Certification of Election Results. Section 2.113. A. Certification of election results shall be conducted by the Community Council at its second regular meeting in May.</p>
<b>June 4, 2025</b>	<p>All newly elected or re-elected candidates are sworn into office to fill Community Council seats in District 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, &amp; 7.</p>



For more information please contact Tribal Elections Office at:  
 Office: (520) 562-9758 or 562-9735 | Email: TEP@gric.nsn.us



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Do We  
LOVE  
Thee?



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**\$0**  
Down  
Payment\*\*

#2

**\$2500**  
Minimum  
Trade-In\*

#3

**We'll Double  
Your Tax Refund  
Up To \$2,000  
Contribution\***

#4

**No Payments  
Until May**

**2021 Dodge  
Challenger RT**



**HOT CAR**

**2020 Chevy  
Silverado 4x4**



**HURRY THIS ONE  
WON'T LAST**

**2022 Hyundai  
Palisade**



**GORGEOUS SUV**

**2021 Ram  
Warlock**



**4x4**

**2022 Kia  
K5**



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**2020 Jeep  
Wrangler**



**DON'T MISS OUT  
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