

ATTACHMENT #1

From: [Micaela Wilkey](#)
To: [Angelica Avila](#)
Subject: FW: Mayor's Corner
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:12:58 PM
Attachments: [image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image018.png](#)
[image019.png](#)



Micaela Wilkey
Senior Management Analyst

44-950 Eldorado Drive
Indian Wells, California 92210-7497
www.IndianWells.com
mwilkey@IndianWells.com
V (760) 346-2489 F (760) 346-0407

From: Lu Barnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:06 PM
To: Community <community@indianwells.com>
Subject: Re: Mayor's Corner

CAUTION: This email originated outside our organization. Be cautious with any links or attachments.

Dear Indian Wells Council Members,


My late husband and I moved to the desert around 1990 and took up our "snowbird" residency at Eldorado Country Club. Being community minded we immediately became active in the valley, we became active with the McCallum Theater, the Living Desert and many other local charities in the valley and thru the years continued to do so.

After my husband passed I continued with his passion of giving. The Living Desert has always had my financial and emotional support UNTIL of late. A few years ago, I passionately gave the Living Desert the funds to create a beautiful mural with the understanding that it would be placed in a location for all to enjoy upon arriving and departing and would be a beautiful backdrop for a memorable picture to be taken as a lifetime memory for those attending the Living Desert. I was so proud and honored to do this and have my friends and family have a memory of their experience with my gift of love to the Living Desert. This was something I was anticipating my grandchildren, great grandchildren someday to look upon and be proud of their heritage. I was recently informed that the mural had "outlived its life" and was discarded. I was heartbroken and so disappointed. This was not my understanding of its intention and its short lived purpose. My late husbands legacy is still present in a train scene at the

Living Desert and I was told that the mural would also be permanent.

As an Indian Wells long term home owner and contributor to the community please think carefully before contributing city funds to a business not in our town and one that treats its donors so disrespectfully.

On Feb 20, 2024, at 7:21 AM, City of Indian Wells <community@indianwells.com> wrote:



The image shows the top portion of an email. It features a maroon header with the Indian Wells California logo, which includes a stylized bird icon and the text "INDIAN WELLS CALIFORNIA". Below the logo is a photograph of a large, modern building with a flat roof, surrounded by trees and a clear sky. The building has "INDIAN WELLS CITY" visible on its facade.

Mayor's Corner

Dear Indian Wells Residents:

As you may know, The Living Desert, which is located partially within the City of Indian Wells, has requested a significant contribution from the city to fund improvements to its facility (\$2 million). Your City Council has embarked on a comprehensive process to evaluate the request (a procedure invoked whenever a request for a significant contribution is made). The most important part of the process and evaluation is obtaining the opinions of Indian Wells residents. The first step in the process requires The Living Desert to conduct a town hall meeting to explain its request and seek resident feedback. **The Living Desert has scheduled the town hall meeting for this afternoon, February 20, at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council chambers.**

Contrary to an email sent to many Indian Wells residents (a copy of which was provided to me only late yesterday which explains this last-minute message to you), **THE TOWN HALL MEETING IS NOT "THE ONE AND ONLY CHANCE TO GIVE YOUR OPINION"** on The Living Desert request. In addition to at least one City Council public hearing, residents can express their opinions by emailing individual members of the City Council (the email addresses are listed on the City's website - my email address is given below). If you cannot attend The Living Desert town hall meeting this afternoon, the City Council public hearing when it is scheduled or prefer to communicate your opinion privately, you can call me at my telephone number listed below.

Rest assured, your opinions on The Living Desert's request for a significant monetary contribution from the City of Indian Wells will be heard.

Sincerely,
Greg Sanders
Mayor
City of Indian Wells
gsanders@indianwells.com
(949) 533-3429 (Cell)



City of Indian Wells
44-950 Eldorado Drive
Indian Wells, CA 92210
(760) 346-2489

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8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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*Hugs !
Lu*

From: [Micaela Wilkey](#)
To: [Angelica Avila](#)
Subject: FW: Mayor's Corner
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:42:00 AM
Attachments: [image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
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From: Genie [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:13 AM
To: Community <community@indianwells.com>
Subject: Re: Mayor's Corner

CAUTION: This email originated outside our organization. Be cautious with any links or attachments.

Although we are part time residents of Indian Wells, but own a home there, we heartily agree that 2 million can be spent on the Living Desert, a true gem of the area. The animals have to eat and have a healthy place to survive. Any amenities needed will enhance the whole experience for visitors. Yes. spent the money!

Genevieve and Frank Brown

owners: [REDACTED]

On Feb 20, 2024, at 7:21 AM, City of Indian Wells <community@indianwells.com> wrote:



Mayor's Corner

Dear Indian Wells Residents:

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gsanders@indianwells.com
(949) 533-3429 (Cell)



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From: [Micaela Wilkey](#)
To: [Angelica Avila](#)
Subject: FW: Mayor's Corner
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:38:51 AM
Attachments: [image012.png](#)
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From: Linda Kaeser [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 7:31 AM
To: Community <community@indianwells.com>
Subject: Re: Mayor's Corner

CAUTION: This email originated outside our organization. Be cautious with any links or attachments.

People who think the Living Desert is some kind of economic engine driving our economy are SMOKING CRACK!!!!

NO ONE COMES TO IW JUST TO SEE LIVING DESERT!!!! INSANITY

They come for weather, golf and tennis, hockey.....and music.....period!!!!!! maybe awards and modernism too

Living Desert is just an AFTERTHOUGHT

DO NOT FUND LIVING DESERT.....NOW OR EVER

Linda Kaeser

On Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 7:21 AM City of Indian Wells <community@indianwells.com> wrote:



Mayor's Corner

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From: [Micaela Wilkey](#)
To: [Angelica Avila](#)
Subject: FW: Mayor's Corner
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:38:59 AM
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From: MelissaM Metzler [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 7:27 AM
To: Community <community@indianwells.com>
Subject: Re: Mayor's Corner

CAUTION: This email originated outside our organization. Be cautious with any links or attachments.

I fully support funding The Living Desert. I hope to make the meeting however with my schedule I may not make it.

Thank you,
Melissa Metzler
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Feb 20, 2024, 7:21 AM City of Indian Wells <community@indianwells.com> wrote:



Mayor's Corner

Dear Indian Wells Residents:

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[Unsubscribe melissamaymetzler@gmail.com](mailto:melissamaymetzler@gmail.com)

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From: [Micaela Wilkey](#)
To: [Angelica Avila](#)
Subject: FW: Mayor's Corner
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:38:38 AM
Attachments: [image012.png](#)
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From: karen schibler [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 7:44 AM
To: Community <community@indianwells.com>
Subject: Re: Mayor's Corner

CAUTION: This email originated outside our organization. Be cautious with any links or attachments.

I am in favor as a resident supporting the Living Desert. Perhaps they could provide discounts to residents and our guests. It is quite expensive to go and many seniors just like to stroll and walk a bit inside the facility. At a 2million a year contribution it is just a thought. I know the city supports residents with golf and food discounts as well as tennis nights. Sincerely,
Karen Schibler
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 7:21 AM City of Indian Wells <community@indianwells.com> wrote:





Mayor's Corner

Dear Indian Wells Residents:

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Angelica Avila](#)
Subject: Information to pass to City Council for 2/20 meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 3:34:59 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside our organization. Be cautious with any links or attachments.

Hi Angelica,

Please provide the City Council a copy of this email:

During the January 18th meeting, the CEO of the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens was only able to confirm that the City of Rancho Mirage was contributing \$500,000. For the other cities in the Coachella Valley that benefit from the improvement to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens he said “We are likewise making similar requests of all the cities in the valley to recognize the importance that the Living Desert plays in the overall economic infrastructure and the economic benefits as derived from the organization proportionate to their population.”

If we are to base donations on population, since we only have Rancho Mirage to use as a barometer, the following would be the suggested donations based on population from the 2020 Census:

Rancho Mirage –\$500,000/16,999 = \$29.41 per capita over 4 years

Desert Hot Springs	32,512 x \$29.41 = \$956,178
Palm Springs	44,575 x \$29.41 = \$1,310,951
Cathedral City	51,493 x \$29.41 = \$1,527,644
Palm Desert	51,163 x \$29.41 = \$1,504,704
Indian Wells	4,779 x \$29.41 = \$140,550
La Quinta	37,558 x \$29.41 = \$1,104,581
Indio	89,137 x \$29.41 = \$2,621,519
Coachella	41,941 x \$29.41 = \$1,233,485

If we used the proposed level of donation asked of Indian Wells, the following would be the suggested donations based on population from the 2020 Census:

Indian Wells $\$2,000,000/4,779 = \418.50 per capita over 4 years

Desert Hot Springs $32,512 \times \$418.50 = \$13,606,272$

Palm Springs $44,575 \times \$418.50 = \$18,654,638$

Cathedral City $51,493 \times \$418.50 = \$21,549,821$

Rancho Mirage $16,999 \times \$418.50 = \$7,114,082$

Palm Desert $51,163 \times \$418.50 = \$21,411,716$

La Quinta $37,558 \times \$418.50 = \$15,718,023$

Indio $89,137 \times \$418.50 = \$37,303,835$

Coachella $41,941 \times \$418.50 = \$17,552,309$

R/Glenn Schubert

From: Ilayna Turcott [REDACTED]
Subject: Living Desert Donation
Date: Feb 17, 2024 at 11:52:02 AM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Hello Bruce,

I totally disagree with \$2,000,000. donation to the Living Desert. It's excessive for the size of our community. Perhaps a one time donation of \$500,000 if anything at all.

Eldorado needs plants/trees since the Pine trees were removed, which needed to be but now some other plantings need to go in. I walk Eldorado every weekend and it doesn't look good..

Thanks for your service.

Ilayna Turcott

[REDACTED]
Indian Wells, CA 92210

From: Jack and Lynne Ryno [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Date: Feb 17, 2024 at 2:01:30 PM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce,

Thank you for the update. I will not be able to attend the council meeting Tuesday, but by this email, you may include us as residents not supporting the \$2 MM donation to the Living Desert.

Jack Ryno
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 16, 2024, at 5:12 PM, Bruce Whitman
<bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:

From: TED MERTENS [REDACTED]
Subject: Living Desert
Date: Feb 17, 2024 at 12:26:39 PM
To: bwhitman@indianwells.com

Bruce -

I think it is important to understand the context of my comments relating to the donation request of the Living Desert.

There is no doubt that the Living Desert contributes, at least some, to tourism in the Coachella Valley. And, it certainly provides for an educational experience for local youth.

My objection is to the outrageous amount sought from the City. I do believe that some far lesser contribution could be justified.

Further, I do support the Living Desert as an educational opportunity for all, but not with taxpayer funds!

Ted Mertens
Sent from my iPhone

From: Mertens [REDACTED]

Subject: Living Desert

Date: Feb 16, 2024 at 3:46:31PM

To: Bruce B. Whitman bwhitman@indianwells.com

Bruce -

It looks like Alan Monroe is engaged in a "full court press" to get support for the requested \$2M funding from the City. I hope you will stick to your principles and oppose this effort. He (Monroe) touts that certain of the venues "reside" in the City of Indian Wells. This should not be a compelling argument since, regardless of the Council decision, those venues will STILL be in Indian Wells. And, it should be noted that any amount of sales tax that could be derived from these venues would be minuscule in comparison to the requested donation of taxpayer funds

I am quite confident that at least two of your fellow Council Members will favor this outrageous request.

Ted Mertens.



Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com>

Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits

3 messages

Rick Passon [redacted]
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 12:39 PM

Bruce, sorry for the late reply but I agree 1000% with your comments about the living zoo \$2 million request.

Rick Passon
[redacted]
Indian Wells

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 8, 2024, at 10:42 AM, Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:



To Indian Wells Residents

This is a report of the two "General Business" actions City Council took at the January 18, 2024 meeting. I ordinarily don't believe it's good governance for Council Members to debate by email, but Mr. Peabody called me out by name today for voting against moving forward an "extraordinary" request by the Living Desert for a \$2 Million gift of Indian Wells taxpayer money to build a cafe and other amenities. I will also explain this vote.

4

From: Mary Hood [REDACTED]
Subject: No to the Living Desert \$ request
Date: Feb 17, 2024 at 2:12:44 PM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce,

We recently received both your email and Ty Peabody's email.

We do not support Ty's request.

We are concerned and absolutely not supportive of the 2 million dollar donation to the Living Desert. This amount would be better spent on projects currently planned or kept as a reserve.

We will not vote for any candidate who supports this agenda.

You may use our name.

Robin and Mary Hood

[REDACTED]
Indian Wells 92210

Sent from my iPhone

5

From: Constance Nyhan [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Date: Feb 17, 2024 at 2:36:38 PM
To: Bruce Whitman bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com, Ty
Peabody host@iwviews.com
Cc: John Nyhan [REDACTED]

Dear Bruce and Ty,

The financial investment to support the Living Desert is completely out of line with what the City should be doing to invest in areas of greater importance or concern to the Indian Wells Community.

I'm not sure either John or I can attend the meeting, but perhaps you can relate our concerns.

Thank you.

Connie and John Nyhan

| On Feb 16, 2024, at 5:12 PM, Bruce Whitman
| <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com>
| wrote:

From: Constance Nyhan [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Date: Feb 17, 2024 at 4:19:32 PM
To: Bruce Whitman bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com
Cc: Ty Peabody host@iwviews.com, John Nyhan
[REDACTED]

Thanks for asking. By name is fine. Please add: "We say this knowing that the Living Desert is an amazing place we all can be proud of- but the proposed funding is excessive.

Connie and John

On Feb 17, 2024, at 2:56 PM, Bruce Whitman
<bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com> wrote:

Connie and John

Thank you for your reply. Would you prefer I submit your reply anonymously or by name?

Bruce Whitman
Indian Wells Mayor Pro Tem
76120 Osage Trail
Indian Wells, Ca. 92210

On Feb 17, 2024, at 2:36 PM, Constance Nyhan
<cwnyhan@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Bruce and Ty,

The financial investment to support the Living Desert is completely

6A

From: Fran Kaufman [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Date: Feb 17, 2024 at 2:55:14 PM
To: Bruce Whitman bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Thanks for the update. I can't attend the meeting but as a former planning commission chairman I feel they are asking for too much money. I would like to continue funding the Living Desert each year as it is a wonderful facility but at a lower amount. I am also for sidewalks on Fairway. Fran Kaufman

On Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 02:04:33 PM PST, Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com> wrote:

Fran

Here is the latest. Do you have any thoughts or opinions I can submit to Council? Are you planning on coming to the meeting Tuesday?

Bruce Whitman
Indian Wells Mayor Pro Tem
76120 Osage Trail
Indian Wells, Ca. 92210

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com>
Date: February 16, 2024 at 5:12:21 PM PST
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com
Subject: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Reply-To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

From: **Stuart Yasgoor** [REDACTED]
Subject: **RE: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS**
Date: **Feb 17, 2024 at 7:43:44 AM**
To: **bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com**

Hi Bruce,

We will be out of town at a veterinary conference next week so unable to attend the February 20 meeting. I, too, agree that a pledge of \$2,000,000 (\$500,000 per year) is crazy and unacceptable. Although we are strong supporters of the Living Desert, additional monies to help fund a construction project should be the responsibility of the Living Desert through its own fund raising campaign and should not fall on the shoulders of the City of Indian Wells. I would note, however, we would approve an aggregate pledge of \$400,000, payable in 4 equal annual installments of \$100,000 each beginning in the current fiscal year. Good luck.

Stu & Karen
Law Offices of Stuart Jay Yasgoor

[REDACTED]
Indian Wells, California 92210

[REDACTED]
Web: www.stuartyasgoor.com

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Any U.S. tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not provided or intended by this firm to be used for (i) the purpose of avoiding federal tax penalties that may be imposed, or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending any entity, investment, plan or

From: Carolyn Richard [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Date: Feb 17, 2024 at 6:57:04 AM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

This is very unfortunate! That meeting is on the same date as McCallum Theatres Gala at Ritz Carlton and I know a number of IW residents are attending that and won't be able to give you valuable input. Please try to bump that meeting out.

Carolyn Richard

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Fri, Feb 16, 2024 at 5:12 PM, Bruce Whitman
<bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:

|

From: Maria Molina [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

Date: Feb 16, 2024 at 7:48:43 PM

To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

I'll be at the meeting. I went on the survey site, no, this will not increase property values and no to \$500K yr.

From: Maria Molina [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and
term limits

Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 1:12:12 PM

To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

In agreement with you that the \$2M request is quite the request and, in my opinion,
excessive on the Living Desert's part.

10A

From: Dan Banchiu [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Date: Feb 16, 2024 at 5:57:02 PM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce,

Is this an investment with profit sharing (ROI)? "Give" is not a prudent approach, in my opinion.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2024, at 5:12 PM, Bruce Whitman
<bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:

From: Clive Weightman [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Date: Feb 16, 2024 at 5:17:09 PM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce,

Thanks I will be there. As before, may be \$0.5 million.

Clive Weightman
[REDACTED]

On Feb 16, 2024, at 5:12 PM, Bruce Whitman
<bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:

From: Clive Weightman [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and
term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 10:59:25 AM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce,

Good to see you yesterday at the Safety Forum.

I think the Living Desert is getting greedy. I volunteered at the Zoo for 10 years, but left 6 months ago as I believe their new leader of volunteers is not appropriate for the role.

In that time I was exposed to their development plans, starting with the Rhino Savannah (\$18million) and now the lions, restaurant, conference center, etc (\$67 million I believe). Everything I saw was Ritz level construction and finish !!! Is this really appropriate for a Zoo? Will IW's money if donated sit for years as all the monies are sought?

As an absolute minimum the Zoo should give IW residents some benefits, a lot more than a dinner in autumn. May be 25% off admission and special event tickets.

We will hopefully have many good resident discussions.

Clive Weightman

13A

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and
term limits

Date: Feb 14, 2024 at 11:41:24 AM

To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Thank you for your communication and for the information.

I do not mind that you and others are debating by e-mail - I believe debating in any form is good.

Regarding the Living Desert - I personally agree with you in this instance. I am very concerned as a resident of Indian Wells that all our money is and has been lately earmarked for "projects" that I would not have voted for. There maybe rules that I am not knowledgeable about, but I believe any substantial sums planned to be spent should go out to the residents with a Yes or No response from the people of Indian Wells to the City Council to move forward or not. Local, State and for sure Federal Government, appear to spend "other people's money" without regard for remaining solvent - it's a worry for me and should be a worry for everyone.

I will view the videotape in the next few days - I really appreciate the information.

Thank you again.

Valerie

On Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 10:43:10 AM PST, Bruce Whitman
<bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:

From: Carolyn Richard [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert
Date: Feb 12, 2024 at 4:04:06 PM
To: Ty Peabody host@iwviews.com
Cc: Bruce Whitman bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

It would be my recommendation that we compare the request for THIS donation with that which was requested from other cities in our valley. We are very small and our donation should NOT exceed that of others much larger such as Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage. Compare our revenues with theirs, and the funding request they received for this expansion. What % of revenues are they donating? More research is recommended before addressing this request.

The Living Desert is a shared responsibility in this valley. The request in my opinion is TOO LARGE for our city to honor. I am in favor of supporting their goals and successes but not at a price that is unreasonable and excessive.

Carolyn Richard

On Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 06:59:44 AM PST, Ty Peabody <host@iwviews.com> wrote:

Report on Living Desert Zoo Funding Request

**Ty Peabody
76471 Pala Palms Drive
Indian Wells, CA 92210
714-742-3945**

IW Views

Dear Residents,

Living Desert Funding Request

At the Council meeting on January 18th, the Finance Committee, which consists of Mayor Sanders and Council Member Donna Griffith, brought forth a funding consideration for the Living Desert. The Finance Committee recommended a "Two Million Dollar"

15



Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com>

Your email

Sue Shigenaga [redacted]
To: Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 11:54 AM

Hi Bruce,

Thank you for your email with information on the Living Desert's request. I agree that this is a significant amount, and *one that I do not support*. I also agree that resident input is necessary, along with more information about the planned expansion of the LD Zoo and Gardens.

It also seems that more notice should have been given about the February 20th meeting. My notice from the LD came on Thursday the 15th, just before a busy Presidents Day holiday weekend. Was this intentional? The LD survey we are directed to also seems manipulative, and not a true assessment of what the residents of IW think about this project.

I plan to attend the meeting tonight.

Sue

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Sue Shigenaga
[redacted]

16

From: Eric Tate [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and
term limits

Date: Feb 9, 2024 at 2:42:08 PM

To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

You are right again!

From: Susan Waterfall [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and
term limits

Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 8:43:56 PM

To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

I completely agree with you, Bruce, that we need to consider the effectiveness and appropriateness of making such a large donation to Living Desert. I'm also glad you're continuing to support the term limits set by the voters of Indian Wells.

From: judith esl [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and
term limits

Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 7:32:20 PM

To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

It seems ironic to be spending money on the Living Desert
cafe when the VUE restaurant needs to much improvement.
I am not in favor of this extravagant gift.

From: Patricia Sandoval [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 6:10:36 PM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Thank you !

On Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 10:42 AM Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:



To Indian Wells Residents

This is a report of the two "General Business" actions City Council took at the January 18, 2024 meeting. I ordinarily don't believe it's good governance for Council Members to debate by email, but Mr. Peabody

From: M [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 5:23:46 PM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Good work

Thank you.

LAX LAW

The Law Office of Martin Lax - Martin Lax, Esq. - J.D. M.B.A.
74-478 Highway 111, Suite 123 - Palm Desert, California 92260
Telephone: (760) 346-8583 - Facsimile: (760) 346-8583 - E-
[REDACTED]

This communication and any attachments are confidential and privileged. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender.

On Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 10:42:53 AM PST, Bruce Whitman
<bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:



From: Robert Reeder [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 3:46:43 PM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com
Cc: Marcie Maxwell [REDACTED]

Bruce,

If you recall you discussed this with Marcie Maxwell, and me one recent morning at IW coffee. You asked us our opinion. My question then was 'does the city have reserves set aside for this type of gift or does it come from general funds?' My recollection is you weren't sure but you thought it came from general operating fund. Your note here confirms that. I wasn't in favor of supporting this project at this level, regardless of the funding source, but I really object to the city approving this and then starting a search for savings from the general operating fund to pay for it. A continual cost savings effort ought to be part of the way we conduct city business, not something triggered by a proposed gift to a non-profit organization. The two things are unrelated.

That was a tough vote you took but I agree with you.

Bob Reeder

| On Feb 8, 2024, at 10:42 AM, Bruce Whitman
| <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:

22

From: Linda Kaeser [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 2:08:57 PM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

I AM WITH YOU!!!!!!!

I REPLIED TO TY'S EMAIL that the Living Desert donation is OUTRAGEOUS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

NO NO NO to Living Desert
insane!!!!!!

Linda Kaeser

On Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 10:42 AM Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:



From: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits

Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 12:55:57 PM

To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Well said. Thank you for looking out for us.



On Feb 8, 2024, at 10:42 AM, Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:



From: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: An extraordinary donation request and term limits

Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 12:21:48 PM

To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

The living desert should get their revenue by their SALES. I personally agree with you. I would not vote to donate ANYTHING to the living desert

It is in Palm Desert. If they want a donation it is my opinion Palm desert should be the first one to donate.

Another thing: I think they need to get funding from the state or whomever is the owner.; it is a business & should be able to make profit on its own.

They want to build a café; That's fine they can request a

LOAN NOT A DONATION

THE ISSUE WITH TERM LIMITS: I totally support the fact after serving 2 terms you re NO LONGER ELIGIBLE to run or serve on the City Council. This what we voted for

From: Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 10:43 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: An extraordinary donation request and term limits

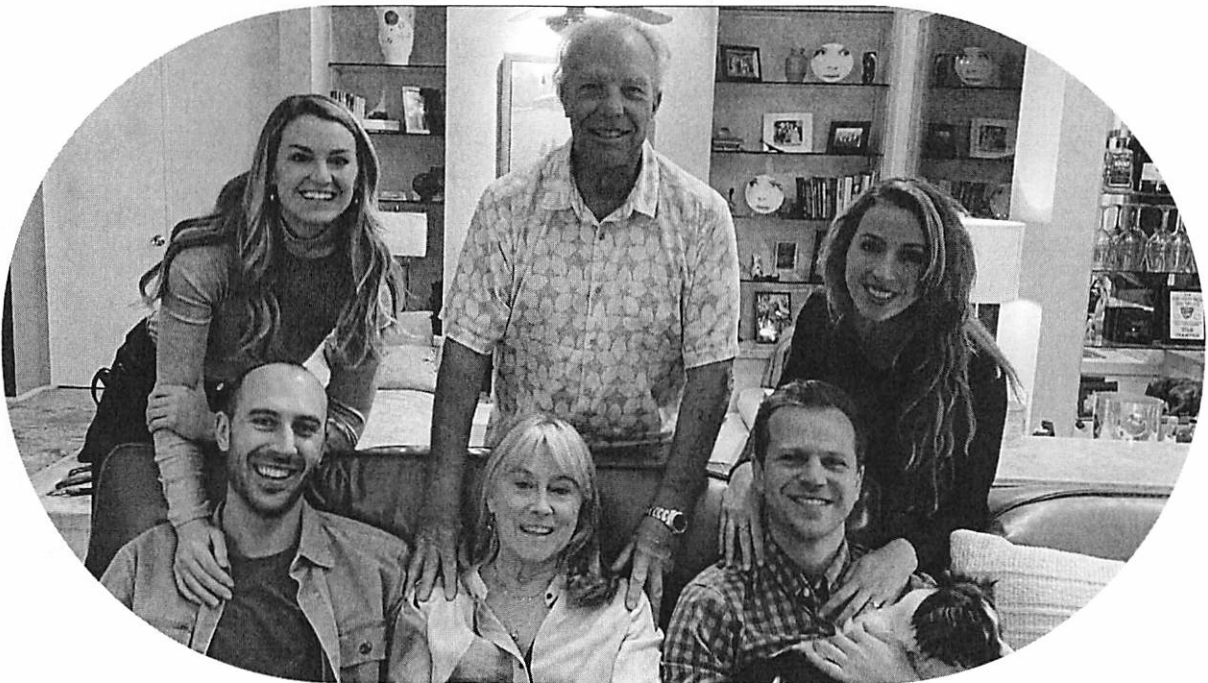


25

From: Pete Pontacq [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 11:31:15 AM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce,
You made the correct decision. Something of this magnitude needs to be put to the voters.
Thank you again for your explanation.
Pete Pontacq

On Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 10:42 AM Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:



To Indian Wells Residents

From: Peter Rammer [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 11:16:09 AM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce:

Good email! I heard rumblings about this donation and have to agree it is an exorbitant amount compared to what all the other cities in the desert donate... As I understand we get no tax benefits from the Living Desert, it all goes to Palm Desert based on the location of the entry portal location and store location (mapped under Palm Desert).

When our Indian Wells Activity Committee asked for discount tickets for residents to the Living Desert light show during christmas, we received a very, very small discount for tickets we were distributing to Indian Wells residents.

Hell, I would love to get my court asphalt resurfaced because of all the major cracks, but was told that the funding for that was slated for 2025.

Donations to the zoo are very large from public and private donations. Why should we use tax dollars to make the rich richer?

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: An extraordinary donation request and term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 11:10:08 AM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce

Many residents don't trust the council to make decisions that give away huge chunks of City funds without citizens input. Examples are the \$5,000,000 given away last year or the \$10,000,000 in 2020 or 2021. I doubt either was legal without citizen approval. Even if legal it was arrogant to exclude the citizens from the process. Winter Fest is a loser and the decorations are gaudy. It should be dropped.

Roger Hiddleston

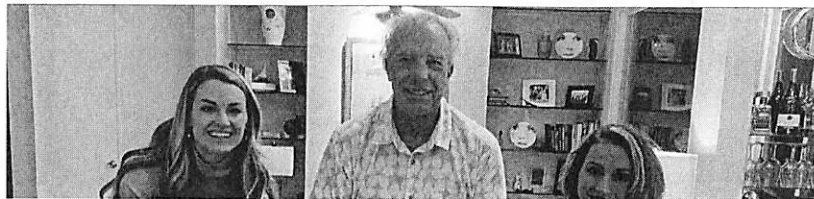
A resident since 2000.

Fr: Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 10:43 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: An extraordinary donation request and term limits



From: Ward Fredericks [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and
term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 10:46:56 AM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce.....

The Living Desert issue is certainly a 'Slippery Slope'. It so easy to depart from a solid practice of conservatism and embark on new directions that feel good. We did it with Eisenhower Hospital years ago, although the former Mayor was involved and arguably every one of our residents could directly benefit from their services. In the support of the tennis event it is also easy to see a direct benefit to the City.

In the case of the Living Desert it's more indirect and harder to see the benefit to our residents. The Palm Springs Air Museum could come forth with a similar story to us about attracting tourists. I remain unconvinced unless significant evidence of direct benefit to the residents of the City can be demonstrated.

Ward Fredericks

On Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 10:42 AM Bruce Whitman
<bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:

From: marv ingram [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
Date: Feb 17, 2024 at 8:25:27 AM
To: Bruce Whitman bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

First, if they have \$88 million in reserves, why would the City of Indian Wells allocate \$500,000 annually from our budget. Would any city services be adversely affected? Are there future projects, beneficial to the residents, being delayed, postponed or scaled down? And yes, our gift should be commensurate with returns. I'm not a fan of this...

Thanks for the original email

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

On Saturday, February 17, 2024, 8:14 AM, Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com> wrote:

My initial reaction is that this is a relatively large proposal of resident money and I need to get input from residents before I make a decision. The evidence presented to Council by the Living Desert that I found compelling:

1. The use of the donation is not for animal comfort or conservation studies but for construction of a cafe, event center and water feature. These will compete with the IW Golf Resort.

From: Vija Lochridge



Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits

Date: Feb 18, 2024 at 1:16:24 PM

To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

**Dear Councilman Whitman,
Thank you for voting no! For us to give away \$2 million it's totally inappropriate.**

Living Desert is a wonderful facility. However, it is not the purpose of IW City coffers to be the source of charity funds. This is not an Indian Wells project. We have no business using taxpayer money for these types of donations. Perhaps a small contribution might be acceptable, but certainly not 2 million

Dollars!!!

Did we not learn anything from the \$2.5 million donation to EMC a few years back?? We contributed/gave way more than our share..... and what immediately followed was an unexpected pandemic which left us with funding problems. Do not borrow from the future to give away our tax money now.

**Respectfully,
Vija Lochridge**

From: Todd Barnum [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: An extraordinary donation request and term limits
Date: Feb 8, 2024 at 10:52:41 AM
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

thank you for voting NO. the idea/proposal is absurd....

On Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 10:42 AM Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:



To Indian Wells Residents

This is a report of the two "General Business" actions City Council took at the January 18, 2024 meeting. I ordinarily don't believe it's good governance for Council Members to debate by email, but Mr. Peabody

32

BA

From: Cleo Beletsis [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter from Cleo Beletsis Coates
Date: Feb 19, 2024 at 8:28:08 PM
To: Bruce Whitman bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Bruce--you have my permission to use my name on the email below at tomorrow's hearing. Thank you.

From Cleo Beletsis Coates
[REDACTED]

I am writing to comment about the City of Indian Wells plan to provide a \$2 million grant to the Living Desert Zoo. I am against this proposal.

Here's why...

Our budget condition. We moved to Indian Wells in 2020. One of the first things we learned, and liked, about our new community was the stability of its budget, and tight fiscal policies....But, in the near four years we have been here, the city's financial condition seems to be eroding.

Yes, we all experienced the Covid downturn but, given the huge dose of financial assistance provided by the Federal government, towns and cities across America have re-built their cash reserves. That doesn't seem to be true here in Indian Wells.

When we arrived here, our city was at the top of the charts in surplus and stability. Today? Not so much. The first role of government is to provide services in an economically efficient fashion. In these difficult times, I think Indian Wells should be building its reserves and tightening its belt.

Our mission statement. I have a real philosophical problem with large cash infusions into area businesses and charities.

There is a growing trend in this country of businesses socializing their

losses, or start-up costs, and yet, when it comes to gains and profits? These same businesses claim to be rugged capitalists. As I understand it, Living Desert is looking to build a Café with our largesse. This is a completely new offering, why can't they fund this? Given their long track record, no bank will fund this? And, if no bank will, why should we? When did City Hall become the lender of last resort?

I don't think it is the proper role of local government to be funding speculative new ventures for not-for-profits, or anyone else. If this is a good idea, let the private sector fund it. I don't believe that's not in the City Charter's mission statement.

Now's the time to strengthen our own house. I do not support the Living Desert proposal.

From: Richard Shugg [REDACTED]
Subject: Living Desert
Date: Feb 20, 2024 at 7:49:25 AM
To: bwhitman@indianwells.com

I urge you to continue your push to make sure our investment is proportional to the benefits the residents receive.

1) Our investment vs a much larger city of Palm Desert. I think most people consider Living Desert to be fully within Palm Desert.

2). How tax revenue increases with naming rights? What benefit do we get with naming rights

3). Discounts for IW residents

Thank you

Sent from my iPad



Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com>

Re: IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

1 message

Chris Henderson [REDACTED]
To: bbwhitmanlaw@gmail.com

Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 10:49 AM

Thank you Bruce for your email and insights regarding Living Desert. We appreciate the information you have provided Concerning the Living Deserts liquid assets. We do not approve of Indian Wells contributing to what may well prove to be an unnecessary "improvement" to the Living Desert. We feel there are more important issues here in Indian Wells community that would be better served than this proposed project. Thank you for all you do.
Chris and Jerry Henderson

On Fri, Feb 16, 2024, 5:12 PM Bruce Whitman <bbwhitmanlaw@mail.mailchimpapp.com> wrote:

...the Living Desert reside within Indian Wells. The Living Desert has asked the City of Indian Wells and its residents for their support of this project with a financial investment of \$500,000 per year over a four-year period, beginning in the current fiscal year. This grant will be incorporated into the city's annual budget appropriations.

Please join us for a Town Hall Meeting to share your opinions and feedback. You may also share your feedback by completing an online survey at LivingDesert.org/IndianWells. The deadline to complete the survey is February 20, 2024 at 5:00pm.

JOIN US.
Date: February 20, 2024
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Indian Wells City Hall
 44-950 Eldorado Drive

To Indian Wells Residents

There is a very important community meeting currently scheduled:

This TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, at 4 PM at City Hall

35

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 7:24 AM

To: host@iwviews.com

Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Thank you so much for this important information.

Perhaps we need to circulate a petition that we can then deliver in person to the council.

On Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 6:59 AM Ty Peabody <host@iwviews.com> wrote:

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 7:18 AM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

\$2M is INSANE!!!!!!!
simply stupid!!!!!!!

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 4:04 PM

Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

It would be my recommendation that we compare the request for THIS donation with that which was requested from other cities in our valley. We are very small and our donation should NOT exceed that of others much larger such as Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage. Compare our revenues with theirs, and the funding request they received for this expansion. What % of revenues are they donating? More research is recommended before addressing this request.

The Living Desert is a shared responsibility in this valley. The request in my opinion is TOO LARGE for our city to honor. I am in favor of supporting their goals and successes but not at a price that is unreasonable and excessive.

[REDACTED]

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 9:12 AM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Ty

Thank you for continuing to keep us informed on issues involving the City. We have seen this kind of thing in other places we've lived in our lives.

The Living Desert issue is certainly a 'Slippery Slope'. It so easy to depart from a solid practice of conservatism and embark on new directions that feel good. We did it with Eisenhower Hospital years ago, although the former Mayor was involved and arguably every one of our residents could directly benefit from their services. In the support of the tennis event it is also easy to see a direct benefit to the City.

In the case of the Living Desert it's more indirect and harder to see the benefit to our residents. The Palm Springs Air Museum could come forth with a similar story to us about attracting tourists. I remain unconvinced unless significant evidence of direct benefit to the residents of the City can be demonstrated.

Thanks, Ty.

Regards
[REDACTED]

host@iwviews.com

From: host@iwviews.com
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 10:43 AM
To: Ty Peabody
Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 10:04 AM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: RE: Funding Request for Living Desert

I like your analysis of the situation. In particular, I appreciate the idea of searching for some things to cut (or cut back) in order to be able to better afford a contribution to the Living Desert.

For what it is worth, I find it interesting to see how the various cities in the CV join forces to contribute to community-wide assets such as the Living Desert, the Eisenhower medical center, et cetera. It must be a challenge to identify the programs or facilities are worthy of multi-city contribution and what programs are not worthy and I'm sure some cities are more generous (on a per capita basis) than others. The greater Palm Springs area is a very interesting assembly of relatively small cities. It appears to be quite a different situation than the usual "big city versus suburbs" tension.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 8:09 AM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

THROUGH MY DEAR [REDACTED] FAMILY FOUNDATION, I GIVE \$10,000 A YEAR. I THINK MANY INDIAN WELLS RESIDENTS ARE DOING THE SAME. THERE IS NO NEED FOR OUR TOWN TO GIVE CONSIDERING ALL THE DEBT THE COUNCIL HAS RUN UP.

[REDACTED]

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 7:37 AM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Ty,

Another potential item to consider is “how is the overall funding going at The Living Desert?” I understand they are trying to raise \$67million. This is a huge challenge given the recent \$18 million for the Rhino pavilion. Perhaps if the IW donation goes ahead, there ought to be some overarching conditions on use and timing at The Zoo.

[REDACTED]

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 7:27 AM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Thank you Ty. Since we, as taxpayers are paying to help fund Acrisure and perhaps the Living Desert, why don't we get discounted rates or even free tickets? Seems only fair doesn't it?

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 09, 2024 2:05 PM

To: host@iwviews.com

Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Hello Ty.....Re: my opinion - I'm in favor of making a contribution, however, consider a one-million-dollar donation @250,000 per year for 4 years. It's still a substantial amount & presumably easier to process.....Thanks [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2024 5:03 AM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Hello Ty,
I agree with the premise of your study, in terms of financial viability of contributing only if there are reductions from other areas of spending. I'm not sure where that would come from, but you have listed a few ideas. I think anything that generates revenue to the city (and that we make money on) should stay in the budget. Proven areas of revenue losses (such as Winterfest and Acrisure) should likely be removed from our budget, regardless of consideration of the Living Desert. I'd be interested to know what kind of endowment funds the desert has. My guess is that it's quite large and is well funded both privately and publicly. I don't agree with 10% of our budget going to the LD when we receive no proven financial benefit. We all love the LD, but I believe it's a very well funded entity already. Our general fund has shrunk greatly since we moved here 8 yrs ago and this would appear to further the decline. What is the benefit to the city?

[REDACTED]

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 7:34 PM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

No. Particularly when the VUE needs so much help. Better ways to spend 2 million dollars!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

host@iwviews.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 7:28 AM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Great note. Thank you.

You asked for yes/no regarding support of the zoo. The response from our household is a "no".

Rationale: Agree it is an attraction. Don't believe anyone makes an overnight trip to this area to visit it, so it doesn't draw in additional valley visitors. Lastly, and more importantly, we don't support keeping animals in captivity for the occasional viewing by humans, and don't believe a public body such as the City of IW should be funding such.

Cheers
[REDACTED]

On Feb 8, 2024, at 6:59 AM, Ty Peabody <host@iwviews.com> wrote:

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 1:41 PM

To: host@iwviews.com

Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Thanks for the overview. I'm having trouble understanding why we would contribute to the Living Desert if there would be no direct benefit to Indian Wells residents, e.g. discounted memberships, resident weekends, etc. etc.? Isn't the Living Desert in Palm Desert?

Best,
[REDACTED]

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 5:47 PM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Bad idea. \$2 million??? Let the residents decide.

On Thu, Feb 8, 2024 at 7:00 AM Ty Peabody <host@iwviews.com> wrote:

host@iwviews.com

Subject: FW: Funding Request for Living Desert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2024 7:24 AM
To: host@iwviews.com
Subject: Re: Funding Request for Living Desert

Thank you so much for this important information.

Perhaps we need to circulate a petition that we can then deliver in person to the council.