



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**      **DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2018**  
**FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**      **WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE MISSION INN HOTEL & SPA 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AND THE 129<sup>TH</sup> ROSE PARADE FLOAT**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive an update on The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights and the 129<sup>th</sup> Rose Parade Float.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council receive and file update on The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights and the 129<sup>th</sup> Rose Parade Float.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa created a world class event twenty-five years ago. On September 19, 2006, the City Council approved the supplemental appropriation and funds transfer request for the enhancement of the Festival of Lights. This became a single celebration, coordinated by the City of Riverside in partnership with The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa. The Riverside Festival of Lights is one of Riverside's annual signature events aiming to highlight Riverside's pride with a family-friendly holiday celebration.

For the first time in more than 50 years, Riverside had a float in the Rose Parade to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Annual Festival of Lights and to thank its creators, The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa owners Duane and Kelly Roberts. A group of community leaders raised the funds in private donations that were needed to build the float and pay for other costs. The non-profit Greater Riverside Chamber Foundation was the lead in the fundraising efforts.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights was held from November 24, 2017, to January 6, 2018. The event is created and executed through community efforts. The Community & Economic Development Department – Arts & Cultural Affairs coordinate the event through partnerships with The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful, Riverside Downtown Partnership, other City departments and many notable sponsors.

The 129<sup>th</sup> Rose Parade Float was created and executed through community efforts. The culmination of 1000+ volunteers and 100's of hours was shown to the world on January 1, 2018, with the Golden State Award (Most outstanding depiction of life in California) float.

Staff will provide the attached presentation on The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights and the 129<sup>th</sup> Rose Parade Float.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Rafael Guzman, Community & Economic Development Director  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Adam Raymond, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Presentation