

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Elizabeth C. Brown

**FROM:** Paul R. Rakosky, Director

**CC:** Ken Paul, Chief of Staff  
Joe Lombardi, Finance Director  
Steve Hiland, Recreation & Parks  
Jack Castle, Recreation & Parks

**SUBJECT:** Funding of Special Events – Hotel/Motel Tax

**DATE:** November 27, 2019

CRPD appreciates the past support from the Hotel/Motel Fund and requests the following funding to enhance cultural opportunities within the City for 2020. The following recommendation includes funding for events and programs that have a direct correlation on hotel/motel tax collections. We intend to allocate funding as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b><u>Funded</u></b>	<b><u>Requested</u></b>
City-wide music licensing	\$20,000	\$20,000
Sports Tournament Support	\$20,000	\$20,000
Jazz & Rib Fest	\$31,000	\$39,000
Special Fund (Special Events Support Program)	\$150,000	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$221,000</b>	<b>\$229,000 (amount available for 2020)</b>

### **Program Descriptions**

**City-wide music licensing** – All public performances of music, whether live, recorded or broadcast, must be licensed. Three organizations (ASCAP, BMI and SESAC) license performance rights for most of the music copyright holders in the U.S. The city holds a “Local Government Entities” (Municipal) license with these three licensing agencies. The Municipal license covers facilities owned and/or operated by the city and any site engaged by the city for use by the city. The license covers any activities conducted, sponsored or presented by or under the auspices of the city including but not limited to concerts, parades, festivals, athletic events, dances or other social events. In addition to Recreation and Parks’ programs and facilities, coverage is extended to: Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Heritage Jazz Series, Columbus Commons Productions, Veterans’ Day Parade, King Arts Complex, Lincoln Theatre, Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, and all other city conducted programs and facilities that play or present music.

**Sports Tournament Support-** Lou Berliner Park is recognized nationally as a premiere mid-western athletic tournament facility. Seventy-five local, regional and national tournaments are held at Berliner Park annually. Over 130,000 participants competed in 2019 tournaments generating an economic impact over \$68 million for the local economy. Designation of funding to support Berliner Park operations will assure that it remains a vital community asset.

**Jazz & Rib Fest**– A Columbus favorite and one of the region’s largest free jazz festivals, the festival features local, regional and international jazz artists performing a variety of genres and 20 national rib teams. 2020 marks the 41st Anniversary of the festival in downtown Columbus.

**Special Fund** – Since 1995 Columbus City Council has provided Recreation and Parks funding for the sole purpose of supporting the efforts of non-profit organizations offering free community celebrations and unique cultural experiences. 2020 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> year of commitment to fostering successful neighborhood, city-wide and regional events that have helped shape our City.

Please let us know if you have any questions or require additional information.