



Chandler · Arizona
Where Values Make The Difference



MEMORANDUM **Community Services Memo No. CS17-032**

DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2016

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THRU: MARSHA REED, CITY MANAGER *MR*
 NACHIE MARQUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER *NM*

FROM: BRENDA BROWN, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR *BB*

SUBJECT: 2016 CELEBRATION PLAZA HONOREE RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION: The Museums Advisory Board recommends the approval of the following Celebration Plaza honorees:

- **James Robert Snedigar** - Jim Snedigar came to the Chandler Police Department in 1995 with a wealth of experience, including service in the U.S. Army 3rd Ranger Battalion. As an officer, he modeled community policing concepts and embodied the noblest principles of policing; his fellow officers respected him for his professionalism. Snedigar served the department as a Field Training Officer and then as a member of the Neighborhood Response Team. In 1998 he was selected to serve on the Special Assignment Unit (SAU). On Friday, April 16, 1999, Officer Snedigar responded to a request for SAU personnel to assist with a search for three armed robbery suspects. While leading the team, he was mortally wounded. In addition to his dedication to his job, he took an active role in numerous community projects that positively impacted the residents in Chandler's traditional neighborhoods. He was also a prominent figure during the W. Steven Martin Toy Drive to provide Christmas gifts to Chandler families. Jim Snedigar's service and dedication left a legacy for all Chandler Police Department personnel to follow. We honor Officer Snedigar for making the ultimate sacrifice for the people of Chandler.

- **Kenneth Thomas** – Mayors and councilmembers have an enormous influence on the development of a community, and former Chandler Mayor Kenny Thomas served during a crucial time of immense growth, when annexation battles literally defined the shape of the City. Thomas first came to Chandler in the 1940s, when he bought a house on Tulsa Street and joined his brother's meat locker business. In 1964, he began his 15-year political career when he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the City Council. He served as a councilmember until 1970, when he unsuccessfully ran for Mayor. Re-elected to the Council in 1972, he successfully ran for Mayor again in 1976. While he was Mayor, Thomas engaged in political battles with Phoenix, Tempe, and Gilbert in an effort to expand Chandler's borders. His time in local politics came to an end during a 1979 recall election in which several councilmembers lost their seats. Though Thomas never returned to politics, he was able to dedicate more time to his favorite pastimes, including photographing our local Tumbleweed Tree, which he has documented nearly every year since 1957.

- **Chandler Chamber of Commerce** – For more than 104 years, the Chandler Chamber of Commerce has advocated for Chandler's businesses and community. Over the past century the Chamber has supported better roads, lighted streets, flood control, fire protection, and tourism promotion. Today, this organization continues to better the community encouraging primary job growth, promoting the importance of small businesses, and working with the State legislature and other elected officials to ensure Chandler's economic conditions remain an advantage to its businesses. The Chamber Community Foundation Leadership Institute has trained more than 830 people in leadership qualities. Those people have gone on to sit on countless Chandler nonprofit boards and committees, as well as improve their leadership techniques in their businesses. The Chamber holds more than 530 mentoring sessions each year on everything from marketing plans to startup advice, business law questions to signage, parking to development, and more. The Chamber's Women in Business Program empowers women with personal and professional development through monthly luncheons and mentoring events. The Young Executive Series develops future business leaders to serve the community. In short, the Chamber of Commerce, with its efforts in education, development, technology and advocacy, has been a part of Chandler's success for more than a century.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: Each year the City of Chandler accepts nominations from the public for inductees to Celebration Plaza, a permanent monument at Tumbleweed Park.

Constructed in 2006, Celebration Plaza features a fountain and a decorative wall with brass plaques honoring Chandler residents, living or deceased, who have displayed outstanding civic commitment, leadership, innovation, public outreach and service to the City. Individuals holding an elected City of Chandler office or serving on the Parks and Recreation Board or Museums Advisory Board are not eligible for nomination.

Staff received seven nominations during this year's nomination process. The Celebration Plaza subcommittee made up of two Museums Advisory Board Members and one Parks and Recreation Board Member evaluated the nominations based on the following criteria:

- Community leader(s) whose outstanding personal service has resulted in significant and enduring contributions to the community.
- An individual or individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the City of Chandler.
- An individual or individuals who have added to the quality of life for Chandler residents through their involvement or financial contribution to short or long-term city projects or activities.
- An individual who has demonstrated leadership, innovation and creativity, which has made Chandler a better place to live and work.
- City of Chandler employees killed in the line of duty and local heroes.

The subcommittee recommendations for 2016 were presented to the Museums Advisory Board at their September 14, 2016 meeting. The Board endorsed the recommendations and unanimously voted to recommend them to the City Council for approval.

The 2016 nominees will be honored at an induction ceremony this fall.

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PROPOSED MOTION: Move City Council approve the recommendation from the Museums Advisory Board that the following individuals and organization be recognized with plaques in Celebration Plaza at Tumbleweed Park on January 21, 2017.

James Robert Snedigar

Kenneth Thomas

Chandler Chamber of Commerce