



# TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY

## TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

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**To:** Honorable Mayor and Town Council                      **Date:** August 13, 2013

**From:** Ralph Wright    **Item No:** 5  
Parks and Recreation Manager  
Parks and Recreation Department

**Subject:** FEE WAIVER REQUEST FOR THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE INLAND  
EMPIRE

**T.M. Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_    **Budgeted Item:**  Yes  No  N/A

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### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For good cause shown, and finding a waiver will serve a public purpose, approve the waiver of the Facility Rental Fee of \$70.40.

### SUMMARY:

The Autism Society of the Inland Empire is establishing a High Desert Chapter and would like to use a meeting room at the James Woody Community Center to provide free services and resources to individuals and families affected by Autism. They are requesting use of the Arts and Crafts Room on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup>, October 12<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2 – 4 pm.

### BACKGROUND:

On 8-14-01, the Town Council adopted a policy stating fees can be administratively waived for a local public agency, a utility company or service district, or a similar entity providing an essential service to the general community, whereas, non-profit requests for fee waivers must go before the Town Council for consideration.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Although there is not an ongoing demand that is displaced with this request, the waiving of these fees will result in the loss of potential revenue in the amount of \$70.40.



# AUTISM SOCIETY

*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*  
**Inland Empire**

June 27, 2013

Town of Apple Valley  
14955 Dale Evans Prkwy  
Apple Valley, CA. 92307

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2013

PARKS & REC. DEPT.

To Whom It May Concern:

We are so excited to working with the town of Apple Valley in conjunction with our new support group for families with children with autism.

As reported by Easter Kaiser Permanente, 1 in 75 is diagnosed with Autism In Southern Ca. Autism is a lifelong diagnosis; there is no reported cure only proposed forms of diagnosis management across the lifespan.

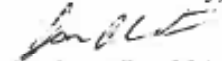
The most prominent shared symptom of Autism is a difficulty with social communication (taking another's perspective, conversation, eye contact, etc.). Fortunately, with adequate interventions, through various modes of treatment, as well as, community support, people with autism can also learn coping skills to help them manage their difficulties and even build on their unique strengths.

Both "high functioning" and "low functioning" autism can be challenging parents, not to mention, overwhelming for the entire family. Families are in need of all the non-judgmental help that they can get from friends, extended family, and service providers, considering that they may be under a great deal of stress.

Newly formed groups of dedicated professionals wish to use city facilities to help establish a foundation of support, comfort, and understanding for families, which face many challenges of raising a child with an Autism Diagnosis. With the help of the Autism Society of the Inland Empire, a chapter has been established 'High Desert Community. The Support' will provide FREE services to families in need of a social outlet and to gain resources, knowledge, convey fears, confusion, and impediments toward treatment; and the opportunity for their children to socialize and build greater skills toward functionality and overall success within life.

We are writing to you to ask that all hourly fees for facility rental, be waived. Each monthly event, we wish to offer will be FREE to all children and families. Please help us utilize our compassion and desire to give to the families within our own High Desert who very much thrive on collective support from others within the community.

Thank You Kindly,



Jonathan Wilson M.A., MFT-I

(760) 680-9074

Autism Society Inland Empire  
2284 Griffin Way, Suite 102-194, Corcoran, CA 92879  
www.iautism.org  
Ph: 951-220-6922/ iaautism@att.net  
Tax ID Number: 45-5376014