

To: **Mayor and City Council**
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
From: **Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director**
Date: **September 14, 2020**

Installation of Air Purification/Ionizing System in Dome

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Regional Athletics Center (Dome) reopened its doors in late June with many guidelines and restrictions in place, due to COVID-19. To date there has been minimal usage, due to health concerns and the fact that there is less athletic activities taking place during the pandemic. Staff has been working with prior user groups to schedule time for the upcoming prime season (November – April). Many groups are still concerned about the safety of their participants and following very strict guidelines for returning to play. One question that continually comes up is what is the “Dome” doing to ensure safety through cleaning and sanitizing protocols? Staff has developed guidelines for cleaning to ensure safety of participants, including regular cleaning and sanitizing of lobby, bathrooms, door handles and other regular touch points within the facility; limited capacity to meet CDC/State guidelines; modified schedules to limit group interaction at changeovers; and regular chemical sanitizing of the turf.

In recent meetings with other dome managers, staff was made aware of other facilities looking at and already installing air purification systems. What these systems basically do is ionize air particles prior to sending them into the dome through our HVAC system. The ionized air particles fill the dome and reduce or eliminate harmful particles by binding to them and destroying them. It would be similar to hand sanitizer applied to your skin. While this will not completely remove the chance of COVID-19 exposure, it will greatly decrease it and show our users that we are doing everything we can to keep them safe. Staff feels the installation of this system will help increase the dome usage in the immediate future, until the COVID-19 threat has been reduced through vaccines or other measures.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff has received three quotes from reputable contractors to install the air purification system on the Dome and Lobby HVAC systems:

UHL	\$17,656
Albers Mech.	\$18,645
Sun Mech.	\$20,000

UHL is the lowest quote, and currently has the contract for annual maintenance on the Dome mechanicals, so they are very familiar with the system.

Additionally, staff believes that the installation of this system is CARES ACT eligible, since it was not a previously budgeted improvement, and therefore would not affect the annual Dome budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the installation of an air purification/ionizing system in the Regional Athletics Center (Dome) by UHL, for a sum of \$17,656. Additionally, Council should approve the allocation of CARES ACT funds to cover the cost of this project.