City of Benson
City Council Communication

Regular Meeting **September 28, 2015**

To: Mayor and Council Agenda Item # 2

From: William D. Stephens, City Manager

Subject:

Discussion and possible action regarding sponsorship of the Benson Shop with a Cop program

Discussion:

During the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget process, Council included a line item in the Community Enrichment section for the Shop with a Cop program in the amount of $500.00.

Ms. Denise Celentano of the Benson Shop with a Cop program is asking for the distribution of this expenditure.

Staff Recommendation:

Council pleasure

Benson Shop With A Cop, Inc

www.bensonshopwithacop.org

Benson Shop With A Cop had its inception December 2010, after a successful December 2014, we look forward to our **SIXTH** year being held December 12, 2015. Shop with a Cop has been in existence since the early 1990's, and Benson's at-risk, underprivileged children have benefited from this event that the community generously donates to. The first year we had 18 children, and last year 40 children created memories. We hope to continue with 35-40 children, but we can only accomplish this if our community opens its hearts and pocketbooks to make this happen. We are seeking financial and in-kind support from local organizations, businesses, churches and individuals to help children from our community. *City of Benson can we count on your $500.00 donation to 'serve' our children and LEO's.* All contributions and grants will be publicly acknowledged through local media and our web site unless you direct us to show you as Anonymous.

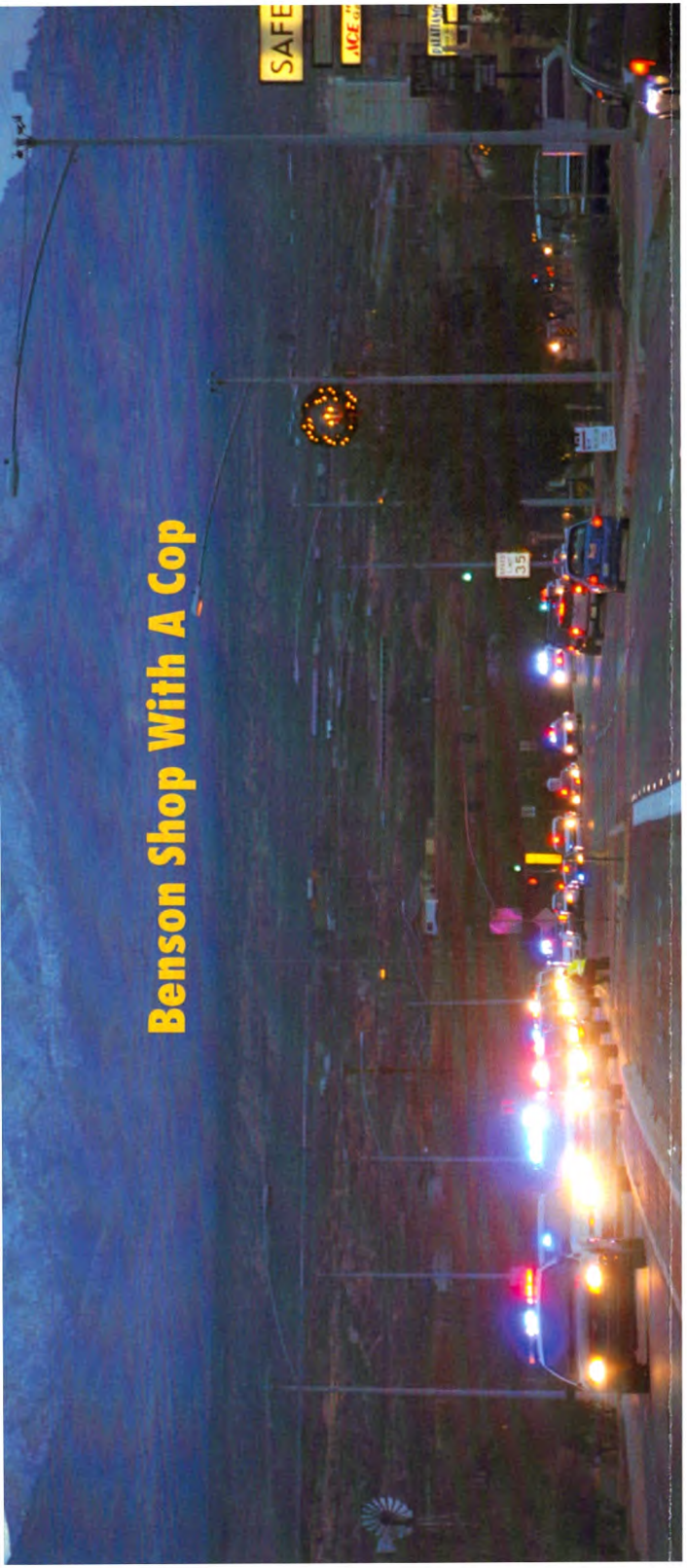
All donations are tax deductible through our 501 (c) 3 corporation and appropriate documentation for your records will be provided. All proceeds go directly to the program. There are no management overhead costs.

With the economic climate being what it is, many children in our community may not have a Christmas without our help. These children are first selected if they have encountered or witnessed a negative contact with law enforcements through a parent or sibling's involvement in the Justice System. These children are chosen in hopes that any negative feelings or fears they may have can be replaced with something positive. Anything you would be willing to donate would be truly appreciated by us and the children this program supports.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Denise Celentano, Executive Director at 520-940-0247 or bswacp@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Denise Celentano, Executive Director



Our Purpose

To have the children in our community experience a positive relationship with members of law enforcement while shopping for themselves and family members in a safe and secure environment.

Mission Statement

To create positive life-long memories for children that have experienced hardship, whether emotionally and/or financially, through interaction with law enforcement officers.

We do not distribute donor lists. BSWACP, Inc. is a 501c3 not-for-profit. As with all gifts and donations, please consult with a tax advisor regarding tax deduction eligibility.

BENSON

A Positive Experience
Between Children And Officers

Find us on Facebook

Phone: 520-940-0247
Fax: 520-586-4369
www.bensonshopwithacop.org

Benson's Fifth Annual Shop With A Cop was held on December 13, 2014 at LDS Church Pomerene Ward.

Volunteers served a hot breakfast to 40 at risk children along with "their" officer. Apache Nitrogen Products gave a donation of two bikes

The scene on Fourth Street was nothing short of spectacular Saturday morning as 40 law enforcement vehicles traveled down Benson's main drag, with lights flashing and sirens piercing the early morning air.With carts rolling up and down the aisles, the officers and children went shopping for Christmas gifts for the children as well as family members. After shopping they went back to the church hall to wrap gifts.With the help of the Future Leaders of America Teens and the officers, the children had a joyous experience. Officers established a posi-tive relationship with the children by playing the very important role of mentor, and that morning many hearts were forever touched.

Selection of the children comes from the referrals of schools, ministers, officers, and other agencies. Preference is given to those who may have had, or witnessed, a negative contact with law enforcement officers through a parent or sibling's involvement with the justice system. SWAC is run by volunteers utilizing donations from the community.We understand there are many wonderful organizations helping others during the holidays and hope you will please consider donating to a worthwhile program such as Shop With A Cop December 12, 2015.

Law enforcement agencies include: *Alcohol Tobacco Firearm and Explosives, Benson Police Department, Boarder Patrol, Cochise County Sheriff's Department, and Department of Public Safety.*

Benson Shop With A Cop Program
P.O. Box 1355
Benson, Az 85602

www.bensonshopwithacop.org

Donations for SWAC are accepted by mail, online at www.bensonshopwithacop.org or at Southeastern Arizona Federal Credit Union. Account # 28194