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Tohono O'odham Nation Presents Check of Nearly \$1.2 Million to Glendale *First payment under 20 year agreement will support city services and tourism*

GLENDALE, Ariz. – (June 28, 2016) –The Tohono O'odham Nation and the Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise (TOGE) presented the city of Glendale with \$1,193,989.07 in a special ceremony at the Glendale City Council Chambers this afternoon.

This amount represents the Nation's first annual payment. Going forward, the amount will be \$1.5 million each year. The first year amount was pro-rated because the Desert Diamond Casino was not open a full 12 months.

Glendale is the only city in Arizona with an agreement that includes an annual direct payment from a Native American Tribe. Under the agreement, the Nation will pay Glendale \$26 million over 20 years.

“This payment demonstrates the Nation's commitment to its neighbors and the strong relationship we have built with Glendale,” said Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Edward Manuel. “Presenting this check offers an opportunity to celebrate the great benefits the casino is bringing to the city, the Nation and the West Valley.”

“The tribe has been a very good neighbor for Glendale and one of the important benefits of this partnership is how the casino is providing jobs to over 500 people right now in our community,” said Glendale Vice Mayor Ian Hugh.

The CEO of the Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise, Andy Asselin describes the first seven months of operation at the Desert Diamond Casino as a “tremendous success.” “The community support has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Asselin. “Our partnership with Glendale and the entire region has, and will continue to play a major role in this success.”

The Glendale Convention and Visitors Bureau will receive \$100,000 of the total amount each year and the balance goes to the city's general fund. About 70% of the general fund is for the city's fire and police departments.

“The casino offers recreational amenities for our residents, but more importantly it also represents economic development for the entire west valley for many years to come,” said Glendale Councilmember Sam Chavira. “I want to thank the Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise and all the members of the Tohono O'odham Nation for making this investment in our community.”

Glendale is the fifth largest city in Arizona with more than 234,000 residents in four distinct areas: the Historic Downtown, the Sports and Entertainment District, the Arrowhead area and the loop 303 expansion. Visit www.glendaleaz.com for more information.

The Tohono O'odham Nation is a federally-recognized Indian tribe with existing reservation lands in Maricopa County, Pinal County, and Pima County, Arizona. For more information, visit www.westvalleyresort.com

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