



Press Release

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CITY OF CHINO HILLS PURCHASES THE HISTORIC MCCOY EQUESTRIAN AND RECREATION CENTER PROPERTY

Chino Hills, CA – The City of Chino Hills is now the proud owner of the historic McCoy Equestrian and Recreation Center property located at 14280 Peyton Drive. The McCoy Equestrian and Recreation Center is a 20-acre community facility that originally served as the home of Frank and Helen McCoy. In 1996, Helen McCoy generously donated the property to the City to preserve the equestrian and rural heritage of the community through a long-term lease agreement of one dollar a year for 25 years. At the end of the lease agreement, the City had the option to purchase the property for one dollar. At the March 9, 2021 Council Meeting, the Chino Hills City Council unanimously voted to approve the purchase and publicly reaffirmed their commitment to preserving McCoy's equestrian heritage.

"This is the culmination of an incredible gift given to the City and our community by the late Helen McCoy and her family," said Mayor Brian Johsz. "Our City's equestrian heritage is part of the fabric of Chino Hills. We look forward to continuing to care for this landmark location as we have done over the last 25 years and honoring the McCoy's original wishes for the property to be enjoyed as both an equestrian and community facility by all for many more years to come."

In addition to the McCoy's original residence, the 20-acre property includes a barn which once housed the famous McCoy Arabian horses and two arenas which have been home to several City-sponsored equestrian shows and events. The donation of the property from the McCoy family was supplemented by a \$2.3 million contribution the City worked in partnership with members of the McCoy Equestrian Trust to direct towards the renovation of the barn, arenas, new storage shed, and parking lot and walkway improvements.

Over the course of the 25-year lease, the City has also invested over \$2.4 million towards facility improvements that preserve and enhance the equestrian and community use including the addition of a third arena, renovation of the community barn, gazebos, and upgrades to the original McCoy residence. On average, the City spends over half a million dollars to operate and maintain the facility and is committed to investing in the facility's continued success.

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The City continues to collaborate with local equestrian groups, community members, neighboring cities with equestrian centers, and local and regional horse experts to gather input and identify ways to increase equestrian and community programs at the facility. Most recently, the City's Community Services Department has resumed its comprehensive outreach process to re-engage with the equestrian community. The outreach originally began in 2019 and was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the first phase of the outreach, residents from the City's core equestrian community along English Road and English Place have been invited to one-on-one walk-throughs of the property with City staff members to provide expert opinions on ways the City and equestrian community can collaborate to continue the preservation of the facility's rich equestrian heritage. During the next phases, residents and interested parties will be invited to a community meeting to learn more about the City's goals for the facility, the equestrian amenities available to residents, and provide feedback for future uses and programs. More information will be shared through the City's website and social media platforms as available.

The City is working in partnership with the McCoy Equestrian Center Trust to develop a ceremony memorializing the McCoy family and celebrating their legacy in our City's history. To sign up to receive notifications through the City's E-Notify system related to the McCoy Equestrian and Recreation Center including information on future McCoy Community Meetings, please visit www.chinohills.org/McCoyInfo.

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