

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jim Campbell, External Relations Director
THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager
COPIES: Lou Lendman, Office of Management & Budget; File
SUBJECT: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES MEMBERSHIP DUES
DATE: November 7, 2002

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

This ordinance authorizes payment to the National League of Cities for membership dues in the amount of \$24,615, for the period beginning October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Founded in 1924, the National League of Cities (NLC) is the country's largest and most representative municipal organization advocating for its members in Washington D.C. through legislative, administrative and judicial processes. The NLC now represents over 1,700 cities and towns. NLC alerts member cities to important governmental or private sector actions or proposed actions, which may affect city operations. NLC also maintains an urban research program and national municipal government information exchange, conducts a variety of meetings and workshops for its members as well as provides publications and inquiry services.

City Council and staff are updated on various issues including public safety, downtown revitalization, affordable housing, Internet taxation, and privatization through the publication of NLC's *Nation's Cities Weekly*. NLC continues to build its online presence through the expansion and improvement of NLC's home page and *Access Local Government*, the local government information exchange network. Council members regularly attend NLC meetings and workshops such as the Congress of Cities, Leadership Summit, and Congressional City Conference. NLC coordinates with regional and local membership groups such as the Texas Municipal League, to strengthen and expand coordination with local officials throughout the country.

POLICY ANALYSIS


The City has been a member of the National League of Cities since 1961. As a member, elected officials and City staff have had the opportunity to attend numerous Congressional City Conferences that have shaped NLC's lobbying agenda. During the 107th Congressional Session, NLC has successfully opposed efforts to pass electricity deregulation legislation, which would have mandated competition and preempted local and state authority. Additionally, their efforts have protected state and local authority to collect legally due use tax on goods and services purchased over the Internet and in partnership with the National Governors' Association, passed legislation that protects state and local authority in collecting taxes on wireless telephone services. They have also taken a leading role in federal legislation aimed at homeland security, sustaining federal support for critical municipal programs, protecting local revenue and taxing authority and balancing international trade agreements with local authority.

FISCAL IMPACT

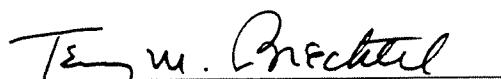
Membership dues in the amount of \$24,615 have been budgeted in the FY 2002-2003 General Fund. This amount represents an increase of \$3,734 or 17.8 percent from last year. Membership dues are scaled according to population, and have been raised this year because dues will now be based on Census 2000 populations instead of 1990 data.

COORDINATION

This ordinance was coordinated with the Office of Management and Budget.


Jim Campbell, Director
External Relations

Reviewed and Approved by:


Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager