

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: J. Rolando Bono, Interim Director, International Affairs/Deputy City Manager

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: Andrew Martin, City Attorney; Milo Nitschke, Finance; Ramiro Cavazos, Economic Development; Lou Lendman, Management & Budget; File

SUBJECT: Free Trade Alliance San Antonio Contract

DATE: October 24, 2002

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes a professional services contract between the City of San Antonio and the Free Trade Alliance San Antonio in the amount of \$150,000 for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003. Staff recommends the approval of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1994, the City of San Antonio was an integral part in the creation of the Free Trade Alliance as a result of the approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Since its inception, City Council approved support of the organization with yearly budgetary funding of \$150,000. The other partners that joined in its support were the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation. Since then, the San Antonio Water System and Bexar Metropolitan Water District have become institutional partners.

The Free Trade Alliance was created as an organization that constitutes a broad community network for the purpose of promoting San Antonio as the center of international trade. Additionally, the Free Trade Alliance has roots in the San Antonio World Trade Association, which provides educational and networking opportunities for San Antonio companies.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This ordinance supports the City of San Antonio's commitment to promote San Antonio as the center of international trade and to increase international business activity. The Free Trade Alliance San Antonio will continue to lead in the development of Inland Port San Antonio and develop an integrated marketing program to promote San Antonio as an International Trade Center.

FISCAL IMPACT

This item is consistent with the FY 2002/2003 adopted general fund budget.

COORDINATION

This ordinance has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, Economic Development Department and the Office of Management and Budget.



J. Rolando Bono
Interim Director/Deputy City Manager

Approved:



Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager