

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

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Jim Campbell, External Relations Director

COPIES: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager; Lou Lendman, Office of Management & Budget Director; File

SUBJECT: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES MEMBERSHIP DUES

DATE: October 6, 2003

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

This ordinance authorizes payment to the National League of Cities for membership dues in the amount of \$28,444, for the period beginning October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004.

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 18,000 cities, towns and villages. 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 First Session of the 108th Congress, NLC has taken a leading role in federal legislation aimed at continued funding for local homeland security programs, strengthening vital transportation systems by increasing federal support for the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century, working to enhance federal assistance for clean water, clean air, and other water-related infrastructure, ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing by calling for full funding of the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, HOPE VI and related public housing programs, and protecting funding for public safety programs such as the Community-Oriented Policing Services and Local Law Enforcement Block Grants.

FISCAL IMPACT

Membership dues in the amount of \$28,444 have been budgeted in the FY 2003-2004 General Fund. This amount represents an increase of \$3,829 from last year's dues (\$24,615). The City was originally billed \$27,350 for FY 2002-FY 2003. However, the NLC gave the City a discount of \$2,735. This year's dues amount represents a 4 percent increase from last year's dues assessment. Membership dues are scaled according to population and are based on 2000 Census data. The NLC board of directors voted earlier this year not to increase membership dues for FY 2004-FY 2005.

COORDINATION

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


Jim Campbell, Director
External Relations

Approved:


Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager