

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Robert Ojeda, Fire Chief

**THROUGH:** Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

**COPIES:** Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager; File

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing Application for the 2004 Metropolitan Medical Response System Grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**DATE:** August 12, 2004

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This ordinance is to authorize the San Antonio Fire Department to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for a grant in the amount of \$400,000.00. These funds will be used to continue plan development, training, and purchase of equipment and pharmaceuticals for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), a system established to be a primary resource to Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents.

Staff recommends approval.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In September 1997, the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) received a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) grant for \$350,000.00 to develop and equip the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) response team through plan development, training, and the purchase of pharmaceuticals. In June 1999, DHHS amended the grant to add an additional \$200,000.00 to enhance the biological response plan and existing surveillance equipment for the Metropolitan Health Department. Effective October 2003, the MMRS grant program was transferred to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In October of 2003, SAFD received \$280,000 to sustain the MMRS.

The MMRS development grants are designed to provide initial assistance for the jurisdictions to develop an integrated response plan, purchase special pharmaceuticals, initiate equipping and identifying training requirements for a MMRS as a principal resource in responding to the health and medical consequences of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and/or explosive (CBRNE) WMD incident. The MMRS approach has resulted in an improved local response to the health and medical consequences of all natural and technical disasters. MMRS response capability has been built from the successful combination of multiple sources of federal, state, and local funding. The challenge is to continue the systems and partnerships that have already

been initiated between local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as the community health care providers. These cooperative planning activities and interactions must be preserved, skilled personnel must be retained, specialized stockpiles and equipment maintained, and local response plans periodically tested. The purpose of this grant submission is to assist the City of San Antonio in maintaining and further developing its local MMRS.

This grant does not require matching funds.

### **POLICY ANALYSIS**

Approval of this ordinance is a continuation of City Council policy to seek financial assistance from outside sources for Emergency Management. This grant supports the joint City-County Anti-Terrorism Plan and will help defray the expense of maintaining the local MMRS.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

This ordinance has no financial impact.

### **COORDINATION**

This item has been coordinated with the following Departments: San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department.

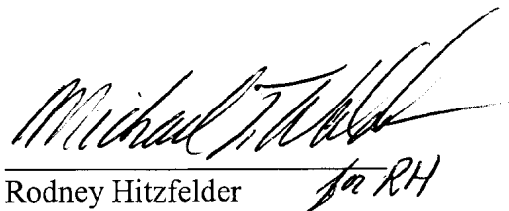
### **SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS**

Provisions of the City ethics ordinance do not apply.

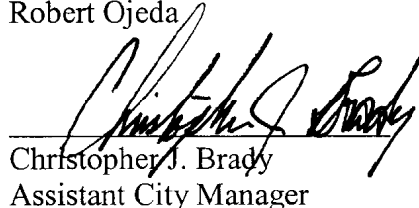
### **SIGNATURES**



Fire Chief  
Robert Ojeda

  
for RH

Rodney Hitzfelder  
Deputy Fire Chief



Christopher J. Brady  
Assistant City Manager

Approved:



Terry M. Brechtel  
City Manager