

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM NO. 40

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: Authorizing payment of membership dues to the National League of Cities

DATE: September 29, 2005

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

This ordinance authorizes payment of the City of San Antonio's annual membership dues to the National League of Cities in the amount of \$29,582, for the period beginning October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1924, the National League of Cities (NLC) is the oldest, largest, and most representative municipal organization advocating for its members in Washington, D.C. through legislative, administrative, and judicial processes. Stressing the importance of continuing a strong local-federal partnership, NLC works on a number of fronts to strengthen its national voice on federal issues of vital importance to cities. The organization monitors and analyzes the changing fiscal conditions of America's cities, issuing two national surveys and an analysis of the impact of state budget deficits on city finances. The City of San Antonio has been a member of NLC since 1961.

POLICY ANALYSIS

Membership in the NLC gives our City's elected officials the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Training Institute, which promotes excellence in municipal leadership through seminars at its Leadership Summit and at annual conferences. At the League's annual Congress of Cities, approximately 3,000 city leaders from across the United States gather for workshops, networking, information-sharing and the election of officers. This conference also includes meetings of NLC constituency groups, which provide leadership and reflect the diverse interests and backgrounds of the organization's members. Local elected officials also serve on a number of NLC committees and have an opportunity to shape the priorities, policies and advocacy positions of the organization. Currently, Councilman Art Hall serves on the Finance, Administration & Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee and Councilman Christopher Haass is a member of the Human Development Steering Committee.

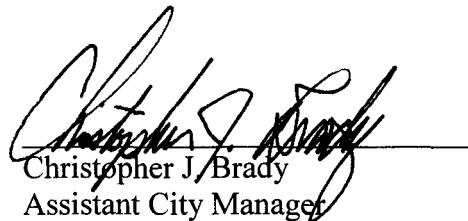
NLC has taken a leadership role in federal legislation pertaining to transportation, economic development, and homeland security. NLC will also have a significant role in the advocating on behalf of cities as Congress considers key issues including changes to the federal Communications Act, proposed cuts to the Community Development Block Grant program, legislation arising from the *Kelo v. New London* court ruling that would restrict a municipality's eminent domain authority, funding enhancements to cities for public safety and emergency communications, and reimbursement to local governments for costs relating to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT

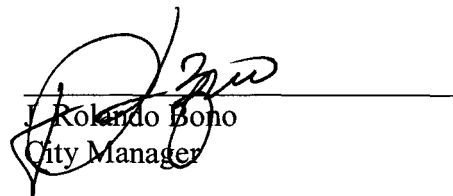
Membership dues for the NLC are calculated according to population and based on 2000 Census data. Funds in the amount of \$29,582 have been budgeted in the FY 2005-2006 General Fund for payment of these dues. This amount represents a four percent increase from last year's amount, which was approved by the NLC board of directors in 2004.

COORDINATION

This item was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the Office of Management & Budget.



Christopher J. Brady
Assistant City Manager



Rolando Bono
City Manager