

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

**CONSENT AGENDA  
ITEM NO. 33**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing payment of membership dues to the Texas Municipal League

**DATE:** October 20, 2005

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

This ordinance authorizes payment of the City of San Antonio's annual membership dues to the Texas Municipal League in the amount of \$45,251, for the period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

**BACKGROUND**

Since its formation in 1913, the Texas Municipal League (TML) has existed solely to provide services to Texas cities. TML represents the interests of member cities before legislative, administrative and judicial bodies at both the state and federal levels.

Services provided by TML to member cities include direct assistance on legislative matters before the Texas Legislature, monthly legislative updates, as well as research on specialized city concerns. TML also works closely with the National League of Cities (NLC) on federal issues affecting municipal governments.

TML offers training through numerous workshops as well as the Annual Conference and Exhibition and the Annual Institute of the Association of Mayors, Councilmembers and Commissioners to facilitate the study and exchange of information on relevant municipal government issues. Publications such as *Texas Town and City*, *TML Legislative Update*, *Handbook for Mayors and Councilmembers in Home Rule Cities* and the *Texas City Officials Directory and Buyers Guide*, offer member cities an excellent means of communication and serve as a valuable tool in alerting cities of important governmental or private sector actions or proposed actions, which may affect city operations.

Additionally, TML promotes constructive and cooperative relationships among cities and between the League and other levels of governments, councils of governments, the National League of Cities, educational institutions, and the private sector. TML provides, in a timely manner, any additional services or information which individual members may request, consistent with a member cities' common interests and the League's resources.

## **POLICY ANALYSIS**

The City of San Antonio has been a member of the Texas Municipal League since 1934. During the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, state lawmakers filed approximately 5,300 bills. TML assisted the City in reviewing over 1,590 municipally-related bills and played a key role in advocating the interests of Texas cities on a variety of issues, including economic development, municipal court administration, land use regulation, public safety, and revenue and taxation. The expertise and resources committed by TML helped to keep the City informed during the regular and two special-called sessions.

TML staff provides legal and technical information on all aspects of city governance and operations. Two conferences – the Municipal Conference & Exhibition and the Annual Institute of the Association of Mayors, Councilmembers and Commissioners – offer elected officials and City staff enhanced knowledge and skills each year. Training workshops are also offered throughout the year on land use, telecommunications franchising, annexation, land development, grant writing, open government, employment law and youth programs.

Membership in TML also allows elected and appointed officials the opportunity to serve on numerous committees and directly impact agenda and policy development. Currently, Mayor Phil Hardberger serves on the TML Board of Directors. Councilman Art Hall and Councilman Christopher Haass serve on the Legislative Policy Committees on Personnel and Regulation of Development, respectively. Assistant City Manager Melissa Byrne Vossmer serves on the Resolutions Committee and Legislative Policy Committee on Municipal Revenue & Taxation.

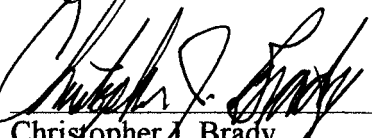
On September 29, 2005, the authorization for payment of the City's dues to TML was tabled by City Council. Concern over the organizations effectiveness during the past legislative session was raised and a presentation from TML staff on their legislative strategy for the coming session was requested. This presentation was delivered by Frank Sturzl, TML Executive Director, during the October 12, 2005 City Council "B" Session. Staff has since been directed to bring authorization for payment of the City's dues back for consideration.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds in the amount of \$45,251, has been budgeted in the City's FY 2005-2006 General Fund. This is the same amount as last year's dues. Dues are based on San Antonio's population, according to 2000 Census data.

## **COORDINATION**

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

  
Christopher J. Brady  
Assistant City Manager

  
J. Rolando Bono  
City Manager