

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

CONSENT AGEND.

ITEM NO. 19

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Ramiro A. Cavazos, Director

SUBJECT: Annual Membership Dues to Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council

DATE: February 2, 2006

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes payment of annual membership dues, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006, to the Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council. Since 1983, the Corridor Council, on behalf of its public and private-sector partners, has served to promote the region's economic development in addition to providing for the long range planning and coordination necessary to assure that the process of sustainable growth will benefit and enhance the region's enviable quality of life.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Corridor Council traces its history to a regional forum in 1982 at which local leaders met to explore issues associated with economic development in the 10-county area between Austin and San Antonio along the IH-35 corridor, then recognized as one of the fastest growing regions in the country. One of the key concepts to emerge from the conference was that cooperation could be the basis for continued regional economic development. Area leaders perceived that the region's growth presented not only a wide range of common problems, but also many joint opportunities. They perceived the need for an institution to precisely define opportunities and coordinate efforts among regional stakeholders.

The Corridor Council is a private, non-profit corporation composed of contributing members from the region's business and public sectors. Charter membership included 15 local governments and more than 60 private firms and individuals. The Corridor Council is not a political subdivision of the State of Texas, nor does it have any statutory authority. The Council derives its organizational mission from the degree of consensus it can create around the issues it addresses.

Approximately 50% of the funds used to finance the Corridor Council's operations come from private sector memberships. The remainder comes from contributions from the cities and counties in the region.

Currently, the Corridor Council's priorities are to facilitate the development of commuter rail, State Highway 130 and creating a worldwide marketing initiative for what is becoming known as the "Central Texas" region.

POLICY ANALYSIS

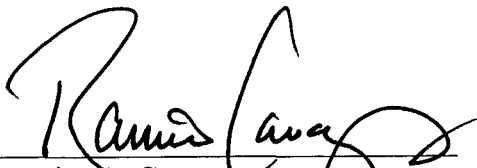
By maintaining its Corridor Council membership, the City of San Antonio is able to play an active policy-making role on the Council's Executive Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Land & Greenspace Committee. Councilman Chip Haass and Mr. Ramiro Cavazos (Director, Economic Development) serve on the Executive Committee. Mr. Cavazos and Ms. Elizabeth Costello (Director, International Affairs) serve on the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Rocky Duque de Estrada (Senior Planner, Parks & Recreation) represents the City on the Council's Land & Greenspace Committee.


FISCAL IMPACT

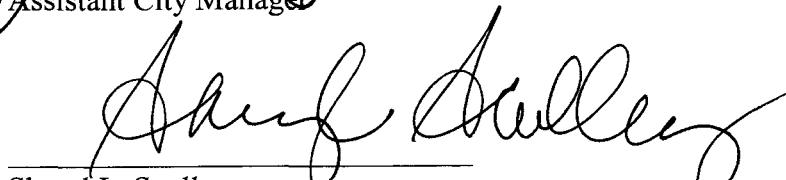
In adopting its Fiscal Year 2005-2006 City Budget, the City Council allocated \$100,000.00 from the Non-Departmental/Non-Operating Fund for its Fiscal Year 2006 membership dues to the Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council. The City will match Austin's contribution up to \$100,000.00. This action authorizes an encumbrance up to \$100,000.00 from the General Fund to pay the Corridor Council's 2006 membership dues.

COORDINATION

The Economic Development Department staff has coordinated with the Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council, City Attorney's Office, International Affairs and Parks & Recreation Departments; and the Office of Management & Budget.



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Director, Economic Development Department

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Assistant City Manager

Sheryl L. Sculley
City Manager