

Professional Services Contract to Receive \$29,000 to Participate in Study to Reduce Lead- Based Paint in Soils

City Council Agenda Item #15

February 14, 2019



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**NEIGHBORHOOD & HOUSING
SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Verónica R. Soto, AICP, Director

Summary

Acceptance of up to \$29,000, as a sub grantee, through Michigan Technological University's (MTU) 2017 Lead Technical Studies Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to implement phase III of MTU's research project "A Novel Phytoremediation Method to Cleanup Lead-Based Paint Contaminated Soils: Phase III-Demonstration Study".



Background

- This study will determine the ability of Vetiver grass to remove lead from soil in residential uses
- NHSD was selected by MTU as a sub grantee of the 2017 HUD Lead Technical Studies grant and has been awarded \$29,000 to conduct phase III of this research project. Three homes previously assisted through the San Antonio Green and Healthy Homes Initiative have been chosen to participate.



Issue

- Staff monitor the care of the vetiver grass planted by MTU students at homes which have high levels of lead in the soil
- Monitoring includes periodic visual inspections of the lawn care undertaken by the homeowners, making suggestions to the homeowner regarding the care and contact with MTU students on the status
- MTU students will travel to San Antonio periodically to collect lawn clippings for testing



Recommendation

Staff recommends the approval of a professional services contract paid to the City of San Antonio from MTU in the amount of \$29,000 to implement phase III of MTU's research project "A Novel Phytoremediation Method to Cleanup Lead-Based Paint Contaminated Soils: Phase III-Demonstration Study".



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