



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number: 17-5500

Agenda Item Number: 16.

Agenda Date: 10/19/2017

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

Authorizing the acceptance of funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for laboratory support

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for laboratory infrastructure support of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's BioWatch Program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) laboratory services branch provides analytical support for various public health programs. The laboratory is host to the BioWatch Program and provides the infrastructure support for testing activities under the Branch Laboratory Services Director.

The laboratory as a whole is comprised of several testing areas that are designed to serve a variety of functions, customers and regulatory agencies in a 29-county region which include San Antonio and Bexar County. The laboratory structure is divided by the following regulatory programs and functions: consumer microbiology and testing; infectious disease surveillance; bioterrorism/influenza surveillance; rabies analysis; and, food surveillance.

Since 2012, Metro Health has received funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for laboratory infrastructure support for the BioWatch laboratory program activities. The current year funds will be used to support the laboratory's BioWatch activities including purchasing lab equipment, supplies, computer

equipment, renovations, and office furniture to support laboratory operations.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security notified Metro Health of these funds on September 18, 2017. In order to receive the funds, Metro Health will submit an invoice to the Department of Homeland Security by the end of the next federal fiscal year, by September 30, 2018.

ISSUE:

In order to continue to provide laboratory infrastructure support for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's BioWatch program, Metro Health requests City Council to authorize the acceptance of funds from DHS in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the acceptance of funds is not authorized, Metro Health will forgo an opportunity to receive additional funding for continued laboratory infrastructure support for the BioWatch program and will need to identify alternative grant or general fund support for the activities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This Ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for a period from September 18, 2017 through September 17, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for laboratory infrastructure support of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's BioWatch Program. There is no impact on the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council approve the acceptance of funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for a period from September 18, 2017 through September 17, 2018 for laboratory infrastructure support for the BioWatch Program.