



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:17-3214

Agenda Item Number: 23.

Agenda Date: 5/18/2017

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI)

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Mike Frisbie, P.E.

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Funding Agreement with San Antonio Independent School District Foundation towards the CAST Tech High School

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing execution of a Funding Agreement between the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Independent School District Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 from the City's Deferred Maintenance Program Funds towards the Fox Tech Campus for the new Centers for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) Tech High School located in Council District 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

CAST (Centers for Applied Science and Technology) Tech, is a new career-themed high school located downtown on the Fox Tech campus at 637 N. Main Avenue, in Council District 1. Campus renovations are presently underway on the Fox Tech campus and the City's contribution in the amount of \$250,000 will be used towards the completion and opening by August 2017. In exchange for \$250,000, access to the computer lab will be permitted one Saturday a month excluding July and December for a period of three years. Access to the lab will be limited to City identified groups such as Workforce Solutions, Café College and Project Quest.

CAST (Centers for Applied Science and Technology) Tech, is a new career-themed high school focused on coding, cyber security, gaming and entrepreneurship. Located downtown on the Fox Tech campus, the school plans to work hand-in-hand with various industry partners to prepare students for careers in technology and business. Industry partners for CAST Tech include: H-E-B, Tech Bloc, CodeUp, Geekdom, Rackspace, The

Open Cloud Academy, USAA, Frost Bank, Firstmark Credit Union, University Health System and UTSA.

College coursework is planned to be embedded into the program and students are anticipated to graduate with up to 30 hours of college credit, industry certifications and portfolios that feature long-term projects and other examples of their work. With the support of various industry and university partners, students will have the opportunity to learn and gain experience through hands-on projects, job shadowing, mentorships, internships and job opportunities upon graduation.

CAST Tech plans to open in August 2017 with 150 freshman students. At full capacity, the school intends to enroll 500 to 600 students a year.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of a Funding Agreement between the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Independent School District Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 from the City's Deferred Maintenance Program Funds towards the Fox Tech Campus for the new Centers for Applied Science and Technology (CAST) Tech High School located in Council District 1.

In exchange for \$250,000, access to the computer lab will be permitted one Saturday a month excluding July and December for a period of three years. Access to the lab will be limited to City identified groups such as Workforce Solutions, Café College and Project Quest.

CAST Tech plans to open in August 2017 with 150 freshman students. At full capacity, the school intends to enroll 500 to 600 students a year.

ALTERNATIVES:

As an alternative, City Council could choose not to enter into this funding agreement with the San Antonio Independent School District Foundation. However, doing so would adversely affect the opening in August 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is a one-time capital improvement expenditure in the amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 payable to San Antonio Independent School District Foundation available from the City's Deferred Maintenance Program Funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance authorizing the execution of a funding agreement in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 with San Antonio Independent School District Foundation towards the Fox Tech Campus for CAST Tech High School.