



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number: 17-4243

Agenda Item Number: 18.

Agenda Date: 8/31/2017

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: SAFD

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Charles N. Hood

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: N/A

SUBJECT:

Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and City of San Antonio Fire Department.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance ratifies a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), acting through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the City of San Antonio Fire Department to establish terms and understanding for participation in the FEMA Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable (PIV-I) Smart Card Beta Test.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In an effort to improve security of state and local access to FEMA systems, FEMA has invited San Antonio to participate in its FEMA Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable (PIV-I) Smart Card Beta Test. The Beta Test involves the deployment of secure, interoperable smart card credentials to San Antonio emergency managers and the use of those credentials to securely access FEMA online systems. The Beta Test includes limited deployment of the credentials to over a dozen state, territorial, local and tribal agencies before the end of September 2017 with a view to deploying in every state and territory over the next several years. In time, if the Beta Test is successful, FEMA is expected to require these credentials for access to its secure on-line systems.

ISSUE:

The Council is being requested to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding between FEMA and the San Antonio Fire Department. Ratification will allow the Fire Department to proceed to participate in the FEMA Beta Test, including receiving smart card credentials funded by FEMA before the end of September.

San Antonio does not currently have a policy regarding use of smart cards to access federal systems. The Beta Test is a FEMA initiative in which, under the Memorandum of Understanding, San Antonio would become a voluntary participant. An additional benefit is the prospect of card recipients being about to use their new FEMA-funded credentials to access other, non-FEMA systems, thereby improving cyber security generally. The new credentials also should work with physical access systems to enter secure City facilities upon appropriate authorization.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is a FEMA initiative that will provide smart card credentials to City personnel at no cost to the City. It is the only FEMA effort of its type and the City is not aware of any similar initiative from any other entity.

If the Council takes no action, the Memorandum of Understanding will not be ratified and San Antonio will not participate in the Beta Test; accordingly, it will not receive the FEMA-funded credentials. As mentioned above, if the Beta Test is successful, FEMA is expected eventually to require these credentials for access to its secure on-line systems. At that time, FEMA may no longer fund the deployment of the credentials.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Beta Test is FEMA-funded and will not financially impact the City.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of this Memorandum of Understanding with FEMA for participation in FEMA's Personal Identity Verification-Interoperable (PIV-I) Smart Card Beta at no cost to the City.