Thursday, August 9, 2007

Health and Human Services RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 6

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$593,309 in grant funds from the TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, Austin, TX and amending the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Health and Human Services Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20060911-001, to appropriate \$593,309 for a total grant amount of \$1,173,309 for HIV/AIDS health education and prevention services, and creating two new full-time equivalent grant positions.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Infectious Disease and Control Branch, Bureau of HIV and STD Prevention, Austin, TX. The grant period is September 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. No City match is required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Adolfo Valadez M.D., M.PH, Medical Director, 972-5408; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Approval of Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Operating Budget on September 11, 2006.

The purpose of the HIV Prevention and/or Prevention Services for HIV-Infected Persons Project is to provide counseling, testing and education to the community in order to help reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, increase the number of persons who know their HIV status, and reduce associated morbidity and mortality among HIV-infected persons and their partners. The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) allocates federal pass-through funds for the prevention of HIV and AIDS cases throughout Travis County.

For 2007, the Texas Department of State Health Services renewed the HIV Prevention Project grant for an 8-month period from January 1, 2007 to August 31, 2007. The award amount for the 8-month period was \$386,642. In March 2007, TDSHS issued a new Request for Proposal (RFP) in which the City of Austin was selected as the successful applicant. The new grant award amount is \$786,667 for a 16-month period from September 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008.

The current approved grant appropriation in the 2006-2007 budget is \$580,000. The requested increase of \$593,309 represents the difference between the approved grant appropriation of \$580,000 in the fiscal year 2006-2007 budget and the total grant amount awarded in the 2006-2007 budget of \$1,173,309 (\$386,642 + \$786,667). Although these are two separate grant periods, the total allocation represents the funding approved in the 2006-2007 budget.

In order to meet grantor requirements, we are also requesting two (2) new full-time equivalent positions. One of the positions will be a Public Health Program Specialist II who will counsel individuals utilizing evidence-based intervention Protocol-based Counseling (PBC). The other is a Social Worker Position who will counsel individuals utilizing Comprehensive Risk Counseling Services (CRCS). These additional funds and full-time equivalent positions will allow HHSD to deliver an additional 950 prevention counseling sessions and an additional 3,750 client visits with Social Workers.