

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: November 29, 2018

Item Number: 034

Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) to contribute up to \$387,000.00 from fees collected by the City from Austin's cable providers for AISD's purchase of equipment necessary for the operation of the AISD educational access channel.

Lead Department	Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs.
Fiscal Note	Funding is available in the FY 2018-2019 budget of the Austin Cable Access Fund.
For More Information	Rondella M. Hawkins, TARA Officer, 512-974-2422.

Additional Backup Information:

In accordance with each cable company's state-issued franchise, the City of Austin receives fees from each cable provider serving the Austin area to pay for capital expenses related to the operation of Austin's public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access channels. The annual PEG fee contribution from the cable providers is currently \$ 1.9 million.

AISD operates and manages one of Austin's two-educational access channels. AISD has presented \$387,000.00 in capital equipment needs for the continued operation of AISD.TV, the district's educational PEG channel. The funds from this project will allow AISD to support AISD.TV in meeting its commitment to broadcast 24/7 during the relocation of AISD.TV to its new studio facility. Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase computer-based video hardware that is two to three years beyond its

end-of-life expectancy, making it subject to catastrophic failure, particularly during the studio relocation from the current Baker building to AISD's new Performing Arts Center. The equipment includes a multi-channel transcoder system, a video router, a payout system, and a content storage system.

Staff is seeking approval to negotiate and execute an interlocal agreement with AISD for the allocation of up to \$387,000.00 towards this AISD PEG equipment purchase. The contribution from the City to AISD meets the intent of Resolution 20110217-048 adopted by the City Council in February 2011 directing the City Manager to collaborate with AISD on budget partnership options. This contribution helps ensure the ongoing cablecasting of school board meeting and district events and will help provide live programming capability at all of the AISD facilities to host live events and meetings.