



## Recommendation for Action

**File #: 20-3112, Agenda Item #: 15.**

10/1/2020

### Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the interlocal agreement with Travis County to coordinate Census 2020 outreach and education services by hiring a program manager to increase the amount contributed by the City by \$25,000, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$125,000.

### Lead Department

Housing and Planning

### Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Housing and Planning Department's Operating Budget.

### Prior Council Action:

**FY 2018-19 Budget** - Council authorized \$100,000 for the 2020 Census effort.

**FY 2019-20 Budget** - Council authorized \$200,000 for the 2020 Census effort.

City Council approved the interlocal agreement at their meeting on February 20, 2020, Item 23.

**FY 2020-21 Budget** - Council authorized \$100,000 for the 2020 Census effort.

### For More Information:

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### Additional Backup Information:

In April 2020, the United States will conduct a census of its population as required by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Census Bureau manages the process but relies upon local communities to encourage participation in the effort. Achieving an accurate count from decennial censuses is absolutely critical for local jurisdictions because the annual distribution of federal monies is based largely on the decennial data. Funding details include:

- 1) The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually in grants and subsidies to state and local governments;
- 2) Title I grants to school districts;
- 3) Public transportation and mass transit programs;
- 4) Emergency food and shelter programs;
- 5) Head Start;
- 6) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food assistance program;
- 7) Programs for the elderly; and,
- 8) Data will be used to reapportion Congressional Districts across the country and to redraw Travis County Commissioners precincts and Austin City Council districts,

The County has hired John Lawler to be the Program Manager to coordinate Census 2020 outreach efforts. The interlocal agreement allows both entities to jointly support and fund the program manager's position as census outreach is critically important to both entities. Travis County is contributing an additional \$25,000 for the program manager position.

At the time of the original agreement, the Census had a completion date of July 31, 2020. However, shortly after the agreement was finalized, COVID-19 disaster declarations were issued both nationally and locally, and the U.S. Census Bureau completion date was extended to September 30, 2020

This amendment would increase funding in the agreement for the Program Manager position by \$25,000 to cover the new U.S. Census Bureau completion date of September 30, 2020.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

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