



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1017, **Agenda Item #:** 17.

1/27/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Economic Development Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to accept and appropriate \$13,735 in grant funds from the United States Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan to cover additional administrative requirements to complete the grant.

Lead Department

Economic Development Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$13,735 will be available from the United States (U.S.) Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan from a grant. A fiscal note is required.

Prior Council Action:

November 12, 2015 - City Council through Ordinance No. [20151112-010](http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=243555) [<http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=243555>](http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=243555), approved accepting a grant from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and amending the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Economic Development Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund to accept and appropriate the grant.

September 11, 2018 - City Council through Ordinance No. 20180911-001 approved the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget which included a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad for the Economic Development Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund.

For More Information:

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3131.

Additional Backup Information:

In Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the City of Austin received a two-year grant - ATX-PAK Launch from the United States State Department and U.S. Embassy in Islamabad that connects local entrepreneurs and investors to opportunities in Pakistan in the amount of \$499,989. Upon the successful conclusion of that grant, the State Department has awarded Austin a second two-year grant (ATX-PAK Advance) in the amount of \$499,193. The purpose of the grant continues to be the development of international trade between Austin entrepreneurs and businesses within Pakistan, particularly for industries important to Austin's local economy.

The Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget authorized the City to accept up to \$500,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. This action authorizes the city to accept an additional \$13,735 to offset unanticipated expenses to cover additional administrative requirements to complete the grant. The grant award will thus total \$513,735.

The grant goals are accomplished through programming initiatives within Austin and Pakistan in partnership with Capital Factory, Austin Fashion X, and Innovation District 92 (Lahore, Pakistan) through two distinct

tracks: 1) Global Market Access Program (GMAP); 2) Fashion Forward Initiative. GMAP will be implemented in partnership with Innovation District 92 and Capital Factory. The program will feature reciprocated delegations and advanced entrepreneurial training with the overall goal of driving mutual economic growth for scaling tech companies and increasing trade between Austin and Pakistan in textiles and fashion. The Fashion Forward Initiative will be completed in partnership with Fashion X Austin and will center on fashion industry development, establishing a textile sourcing center, and increasing trade between Austin and Pakistan.

The ATX+PAK Advance program supports the City's strategy in creating productive economic development partnerships and establishing formalized trade relationships between the City and international partners. The program will develop the fashion industry in Austin which has been identified as a target market within the City.

The additional funds granted to the City will be used to cover the administrative costs associated with completing the application and registration process for visa or other program administration expenses.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Economic Development Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.