



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 20

Agenda Date: December 12, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Finance Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Troy Elliott

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Resolution by the City Council Authorizing the Financing of Certain Educational Facilities for the University of the Incarnate Word.

SUMMARY:

This Resolution by the City Council of the City of San Antonio, Texas approves the issuance of higher education revenue bonds by the City of San Antonio, Texas Education Facilities Corporation for the University of the Incarnate Word, a Texas nonprofit corporation, and approves other matters related thereto.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The University of the Incarnate Word (the “University”) is a private four-year university located in San Antonio, Texas. Founded in 1881 by three Catholic sisters known as the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, the University has grown to be the largest Catholic university in Texas and the fourth largest private university in Texas. The University offers over 90 undergraduate majors, minors, and concentrations, and over 20 graduate and doctoral programs, delivered in traditional classroom environments, online format, and blended classes. The University curriculum provides a balance between liberal studies and professional programs. The program of studies is designed to give students a foundation in the liberal arts and a competence in professional areas such as

education and business, science and the arts, health care, religion, and social renewal. The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, doctorate, and professional degrees. As an approved Yellow Ribbon institution, The University funds tuition and fees above the yearly national cap for eligible veterans, enabling generous access to higher education for those who have served in the military. The University participates in NCAA Division I athletics.

The City of San Antonio, Texas Higher Education Authority, Inc. (the “Original Corporation”) was created by the City of San Antonio in 1984 for the purpose of aiding educational institutions of higher education with tax-exempt bond financing options to improve their facilities. On May 31, 2001, the City Council approved amendments to the Original Corporation’s Articles of Incorporation to include also aiding accredited primary and secondary schools and authorized charter schools and to change its name to the City of San Antonio, Texas Education Facilities Corporation (the “Issuer”). The City Council serves as the 11-member Board of Directors of the Issuer.

The University has requested that the Board of Directors of the Issuer issue up to \$55,000,000 in principal amount of revenue bonds, the proceeds of which would be loaned to the University to be used to (i) finance the acquisition, construction, improvement, and/or equipping of educational facilities and related facilities located and/or to be located on and adjacent to the University’s campus located at 4119 Broadway and 4301 Broadway, in City Council District 2, and located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Broadway Street and Hildebrand Avenue, all in San Antonio, Texas, including but not limited to the Founders Hall project, building renovations, and parking facilities and (ii) pay costs of issuing the bonds.

Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended (the “Code”) requires that the issuance of any qualified 501(c)(3) obligations be approved by the applicable elected representative of the governmental unit in which the project is located after a public hearing following reasonable public notice. Such public hearing occurred on November 15, 2024, with bond counsel presiding over such hearing. City approval may also be provided pursuant to the Issuer’s organizational documents prior to the issuance of Bonds by the Issuer.

ISSUE:

The consideration and approval of these actions are consistent with the City’s practice to provide tax-exempt financing at lower interest rates to non-profit educational institutions. In the past two decades, the Issuer has approved bond financings for the University, as well as St. Mary’s University, Trinity University, and Hallmark University. These actions are also consistent with the City’s efforts to leverage local educational resources to create a more vibrant economy and to facilitate the development of a highly-skilled workforce.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the Issuer does not authorize the issuance of the Bonds, the University will need to seek other sources of financing at higher taxable rates of interest.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Resolution does not obligate the Issuer or the City to provide funds for payment of the Bonds or the interest thereon, and the Bonds will not constitute debt of the City or create any liability to the Issuer or the City. The University is solely responsible for paying all debt service and other costs associated with Bonds. The City will receive an application fee of \$2,500.00 from the University upon the adoption of the requested Resolution, which will be deposited in the General Fund, and the City of San Antonio, Texas Education Facilities Corporation will receive an administrative fee of \$20,000.00, which will be deposited into the Education Facilities Corporation account upon the closing of the Bonds.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this Resolution that approves the issuance of the Bonds to finance certain educational and related facilities for the University.