



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: October 12, 2021

In Control: Economic and Workforce Development Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Clerk

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Debbie Racca-Sittre

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Consideration of the creation of a Sub-Committee to review applicants for the San Antonio Economic Development Corporation Vacant At-Large Board Seat.

SUMMARY:

The Economic and Workforce Development Council (EWDC) Committee will consider establishing a Sub-Committee to review and recommend applicants for the San Antonio Economic Development Corporation (SAEDC) Board. The recommended applicants will then be interviewed by the EWDC.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Economic Development Corporation (SAEDC) is a nonprofit corporation that was created by the City Council in May 2010 with the purpose of focusing on job creation and promoting long term economic growth specific to the San Antonio regional business ecosystem. Over the years, the SAEDC has invested over \$14.3 million in 12 economic development

projects.

The SAEDC has solidified its position over the years as a dependable partner in the entrepreneurship and start-up communities, regularly taking part in local investment pitches and connecting new companies with the appropriate resources and assistance they may need to succeed. Additionally, in collaboration with key economic development partners, the SAEDC has started its annual Military Industry Day so that local vendors and businesses can network with military personnel and learn more about the Federal and Department of Defense procurement process. The SAEDC staff is often evaluating San Antonio's emerging and developing industries and markets in order to make strategic investments and help spur further economic growth.

Recognizing the intense concentration of military and medical presence in San Antonio, the SAEDC initiated a study in order to develop the San Antonio Military Life Science Commercialization Action Plan. One of the action items identified by the Plan was the creation of the San Antonio Military Medical Innovation (SAMMI) Fund. The purpose of the SAMMI Fund is to promote local economic development by providing financial assistance to early-stage local companies engaged in the development of products and technologies that support military medical requirements, as well as having the potential for broader civilian markets. In 2019, the SAEDC took another step towards that achieving that item by hiring a Director to manage the SAMMI program. As a result, the SAMMI Fund has resulted in the successful investment of five (5) local start-up organizations in 2020 and 2021.

The SAEDC is governed by a Board which is comprised of seven (7) members from the following categories: Mayor - one (1) seat; Councilmembers - two (2) seats; City Manager - one (1) seat; and Citizens At-Large – three (3) seats. The three (3) Citizens At-Large seats are appointed by the City Council.

After marketing and community outreach efforts, a total of eighteen applications were received and 16 were deemed qualified applicants for one (1) vacant seat for the category of Citizen At-Large.

ISSUE:

In order to provide the EWDC Committee with the time needed to thoroughly evaluate the applicants, it is recommended that a Sub-Committee be established. The Sub-Committee will review the applications and present four to five applicants for the EWDC Committee to interview at the next meeting. On October 12, the EWDC Committee will consider establishing a Sub-Committee and its members.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Economic and Workforce Development Committee could decide not to establish the Sub-Committee and interview the applicants directly.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends establishing a Sub-Committee to review the applicants for the SAEDC Board vacancy.