



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

### File Number:

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**Agenda Item Number:** 30

**Agenda Date:** November 3, 2022

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Health Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Claude Jacob

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Ordinance approving an Interlocal Agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health) to provide SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance approves an Interlocal Agreement with UT Health to provide SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data to Metro Health, in an amount up to \$200,000.00, for a period beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023, with the option to renew for four, one-year terms, for a cumulative amount up to \$1,000,000.00. Funding for the first year of the contract in the amount of \$200,000.00 is available from the FY 2023 General Fund Adopted Budget. Funding for future year is dependent upon City Council approval of the annual budget.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Since April 2021, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health) has established Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) and expanded the local Public Health laboratory capability and capacity for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 variants.

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) has contracted with UT Health since April 15, 2021 to provide NGS services and expand the capacity for detection of SARS-CoV-2

variants. Through Ordinance Number 2021-06-17-0446, City Council authorized an initial agreement with UT Health's Department of Pathology in an amount up to \$200,000.00 through March 30, 2022. Due to an increased need for NGS capabilities and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, through Ordinance 2021-11-18-0878, City Council authorized an amendment to the initial agreement with UT Health to increase the total compensation of the agreement to \$558,912.00 through March 30, 2022. Furthermore, through Ordinance 2022-05-12-0342, City Council authorized a no cost extension and second amendment to the agreement with UT Health to extend the term through September 30, 2022.

As a result of the ongoing pandemic and continued need for these services, Metro Health is seeking approval of an agreement with UT Health to provide NGS services and ensure variant detection services remain readily available. Through this agreement with UT Health, Metro Health will receive SARS-CoV-2 variant surveillance data reports for situational awareness and epidemiological purposes. The data provided through this agreement allows Metro Health to track local prevalence of CDC "Variants of Concern" and "Variants of Interest" such as Delta (AY.100), Omicron (BA.1, BA1.1, BA2). These variants are of concern/interest due to various attributes, such as increased transmissibility, increased severity, reduced neutralization by convalescent sera, reduced neutralization by monoclonal antibody therapy, and reduced neutralization by post-vaccination sera.

#### **ISSUE:**

Metro Health requests City Council approve an Interlocal Agreement with UT Health for the provision of SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data to Metro Health, in an amount up to \$200,000.00, for a period beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023, with the option to renew for four, one-year terms. Approval of the agreement will allow Metro Health to monitor SARS-CoV-2 surveillance data reports for situational awareness and epidemiological purposes.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Should the agreement not be approved, Metro Health will not be able to receive data critical to inform the community of the local prevalence of CDC "Variants of Concern" and "Variants of Interest."

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This Ordinance approves an Interlocal Agreement with UT Health to provide SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data in an amount up to \$200,000.00, for a term ending September 30, 2023, with the option to renew for four, one-year terms, for a cumulative amount up to \$1,000,000.00. Funding for the first year of the contract in the amount of \$200,000.00 is available from the FY 2023 General Fund Adopted Budget. Funding for future year is dependent upon City Council approval of the annual budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends City Council approve an Interlocal Agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to provide SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data for a term ending September 30, 2023.