



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: January 13, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 2

SUBJECT:

Inner City TIRZ Fund Request for Ella Austin Feasibility Study and Capital Improvements

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of a Funding Agreement between the City of San Antonio and the Inner City TIRZ Board for an amount not to exceed \$11,922,500 for a feasibility study and capital improvements for the Ella Austin Community Center for the period of FY 2022 – FY 2025.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Ella Austin Community center (originally Ralph Waldo Emerson Junior High School) was constructed in 1923 by the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD). The property is located in the Dignowity Hill Historic District at 1023 N. Pine Street. The City of San Antonio acquired the facility from SAISD in 1976 and has leased it to the Ella Austin Community Center nonprofit since March of 1983. Historically, the center has provided a wide range of services to the local community which have included: early childhood, youth, senior, and family services.

The Ella Austin property consists of 5 structures spanning 63,000 square feet. These structures include the main building, gym, senior center, metal storage building, and a modular building. The

main building and gym building are original structures to the site and the attached auditorium was constructed in 1930. From 2007 – 2021, the City of San Antonio has invested \$1.9 million from general fund, Bond, and Community Development Block Grant funds to improve the facility.

The FY 2022 adopted City of San Antonio budget included \$780,000 in Ella Austin Community Center facility investments which included a recommendation to fund \$250,000 from Inner City TIRZ funding for a Feasibility Study to gather community input and assessment to determine the best and highest use of the facility and property.

On October 20, 2021, staff presented to City Council revised staff recommendations for the 2022 – 2027 Bond Program for Facilities with an additional \$11.5 million in Bond and \$11.5 million in potential Inner City TIRZ Funding for renovations at the Ella Austin Community Center.

ISSUE:

On October 20, 2021, the Inner City TIRZ Board approved a resolution for a Funding Agreement between the Inner City TIRZ Board of Directors and the City of San Antonio 11,922,500 for a feasibility study and capital improvements for the Ella Austin Community Center for the period of FY 2022 – FY 2025.

ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Inner City TIRZ funding will support critical health, safety, and facility infrastructure related capital improvements at the Ella Austin Community Center that will expand the useable life of the campus.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this agreement is available in the Inner City TIRZ fund balance. There will be no impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Funding Agreement with the Inner City TIRZ Board of Directors and the City of San Antonio for an amount not to exceed \$11,922,500 for a feasibility study and capital improvements for the Ella Austin Community Center for the period of FY 2022 – FY 2025.