



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Marc A. Ott, City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MAO", written over the name "Marc A. Ott, City Manager".

DATE: January 30, 2014

SUBJECT: Funding Request from the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

The purpose of this memo is to inform you that my office has received a supplemental funding request from the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) in the amount of \$40,000 for staff and legal services.

According to ICRC Executive Director Craig Tounget, the Commission at their November 13, 2013 meeting took formal action to request \$25,000 from the City for legal fees in the event the ICRC has "to defend the certification of the final product [i.e. single-member district maps] and all legal issues surrounding the said certification of the final product." At a subsequent meeting on December 11, 2013, the ICRC revised its funding request by asking for an additional \$15,000 to retain their Executive Director for an additional two months in order to ensure the completion of the ICRC's Final Report.

My staff has reviewed the ICRC's request and has determined that the requested amount is both reasonable and necessary for the ICRC to complete its work. Therefore, I have instructed Elaine Hart, Chief Financial Officer, to provide the additional \$40,000 in funding to the ICRC.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me directly. Thanks!

Attachment (1) – Letter from ICRC Executive Director Craig Tounget

cc: Magdalena Blanco, Chair, ICRC
Craig Tounget, Executive Director, ICRC
Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager
Elaine Hart, Chief Financial Officer
Karen Kennard, City Attorney
Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Financial Officer

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

The Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) has determined that, pursuant to Subsection (H) of the City of Austin Charter, Article II, Section (3)(H), “that funds...provided for the operation of the ICRC are not adequate,” thus requiring the allocation of an additional \$40,000 to its budget.

The ICRC has determined that it needs an additional \$25,000 for legal fees **“in order to defend the certification of the final product and all legal issues surrounding the said certification of the final product the Commission authorizes the executive director to budget and if not in the budget to go through processes to secure up to \$25,000.00 to utilize current legal counsel to assist the Commission in any legal issues surrounding said certification.”** (See Minutes of November 13, 2013.)

In addition, the ICRC has determined that they need to retain their Executive Director for a period of up to two additional months in order to ensure the completion of the Final Report. Several more meetings of the Commission are anticipated and numerous drafts of the report are expected before a final version is completed. The meeting planning, staffing of meetings, drafting of minutes, compilation of the report, etc. will require retaining staff. The ICRC has authorized **“the Chair to handle any administrative issues, including contract extensions, for the Commission.”** (See Minutes of December 11, 2013.) The ICRC seeks an additional \$15,000, which, coupled with remaining funds, will be sufficient for up to two more months of fees for the Executive Director.

Thank you for your help in this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Craig Tounget

Executive Director