Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-3453, **Agenda Item #:** 23. 1/23/2020

Posting Language

Authorize the negotiation and execution of a one-year contract with Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce to provide business development services, economic development, recruitment and retention services in an amount not to exceed $171,000.

Lead Department

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of $171,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of Economic Development Department.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The City works to strengthen the local economy by developing Austin's existing businesses, and by recruiting outside businesses to relocate or do business in Austin. One way the City pursues these strategies is by providing business and economic development contracts to each of the four chambers of commerce that comprise the Multi-Ethnic Chamber Alliance: The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC), the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce (GABCC), and the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce (GAACC). Additionally, portions of this strategy are offered to the Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (AGLCC). EDD has just completed year-long work conducting group and One-On-One Chamber Stakeholder meetings, assessing current contractual deliverables, and developing a Chamber Funding Formula/Model per your direction.

The Fiscal Year 2019-2020 contract with the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce will align directly with the Strategic Direction 2023 (SD23) initiative including the strategies and metrics related to the Economic Opportunity & Affordability (EOA), Culture & Lifelong Learning (CLL), and Government Works for All (GWA) outcomes. These contracts will contain the following scope of work items:

1. Business engagement to promote City initiatives to diverse local communities and to collect data to inform the City about the needs within their respective communities.
2. Fostering workforce development participation amongst member businesses that aligns with the Master Community Workforce Plan goals such as upskilling or internships/apprenticeships.
3. Providing access to small business development resources such as access to education, technical assistance, and financing, among others.

4. Industry-specific projects for targeted industries such as creatives and food, among others.

Finally, these organizations will engage in strategic capacity building projects to ensure that these contracts are mutually beneficial and are working towards building sustainable organizations within diverse communities, in addition to addressing City initiatives.