



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2427, Agenda Item #: 78.

7/29/2020

Posting Language

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) to contribute up to \$378,400.00 from fees collected by the City from Austin's cable providers for AISD's purchase of capital equipment necessary for the operation of the AISD educational access channel.

Lead Department

Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget of the Austin Cable Access Fund.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

In accordance with each cable company's state-issued franchise, the City of Austin receives fees from each cable provider serving the Austin area to pay for capital expenses related to the operation of Austin's public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access channels. The annual PEG fee contribution from the cable providers is currently \$ 1.7 million.

AISD operates and manages one of Austin's two-educational access channels, AISD.TV, that supports an active and engaged community of more than 80,000 students and their families, 12,000+ employees and 130 schools.

AISD has requested \$378,400.00 towards the AISD PEG equipment purchase which covers capital equipment for quality and reliability enhancements in their Performing Arts Center master control buildout. This includes replacing some equipment that was not replaced as part of the relocation of master control to the Performing Arts Center. These items are vital to increased functionality but were not able to be carried in the original scope of the move because of budgetary constraints. The primary FY2020 focus is on ensuring uninterrupted playout and transmission of content, with a nod to accessibility through proper closed captioning, on a 24/7 basis. The request will serve to enhance the operational quality and reliability of AISD.TV to better serve the needs of the entire Austin community.

Staff is seeking approval to negotiate and execute an interlocal agreement with AISD for the allocation of up to \$378,400.00. The contribution from the City to AISD meets the intent of Resolution 20110217-048 adopted by the City Council in February 2011 directing the City Manager to collaborate with AISD on budget partnership options and of Resolution 20190131-038 that directing the City Manager to prioritize the existing and ongoing collaborative work of the Strategic Facilities Governance Team with AISD to identify opportunities to achieve shared priority and policy goals

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All.