File #: 21-3278, **Agenda Item #:** 36. 11/18/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Special Revenue Fund Operating Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department to accept and appropriate up to $250,000 from the Trail of Lights Foundation for payment of costs for City services, and authorize waiver of certain permit, application and similar fees and requirements for the 2021 Trail of Lights in an amount not to exceed $200,000.

Lead Department

Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

March 1, 2012 - Council approved authorization to negotiate and execute a co-sponsorship agreement with the RunTex Foundation to produce the Trail of Lights on consent on Council Member Spelman's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Cole's second on a 7-0 vote.

March 21, 2013 - Council approved Resolution No. 20130321-035 directing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a five-year contract with RunTex Foundation to produce the Trail of Lights on Council Member Martinez' motion, Council Member Morrison's second on a 7-0 vote.

August 22, 2013 - Council approved authorization to negotiate and execute any and all documents necessary to assign the rights of the remaining term of the five-year co-sponsorship agreement executed with RunTex Foundation on consent on Council Member Spelman's motion, Mayor Pro Tem Cole's second on a 7-0 vote.

October 15, 2015 - Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 20140807-112 authorizing the negotiation and execution of documents needed to allow the Trail of Lights Foundation to operate and manage the Trail of Lights event; repealing portions of related to entrance fees, and authorizing the Foundation to charge fees for no more than half of the public event nights, keeping the event free on opening night and for shuttle riders on Council Member Zimmerman's motion, Council Member Gallo's second.

December 17, 2015 - Council unanimously approved Ordinance 20151217-032 amending the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Special Revenue Fund Operating Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department (Ordinance No. 20150910-001) to accept and appropriate up to $250,000 from the Trail of Lights Foundation for payment of City services, and authorize waiver of certain permit, application and similar fees and requirements for the 2015 Trail of Lights in an amount not to exceed $205,000 on Council Member Renteria's motion, Council Member Zimmerman's second.

September 22, 2016 - Council approved on consent Resolution No. 20160922-032 which amended Resolution No. 20151015-035 to repeal portions related to the Trail of Lights event entrance fees and to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute an amendment to the agreement with the Trail of Lights Foundation related to fees and maintenance of funding on Council Member Zimmerman's motion, Council Member Gallo's second on an 8-0 vote. Council Member Zimmerman abstained. Council Member Casar was off the dais. Council

Member Troxclair was absent.

November 12, 2020 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20201112-021 amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Revenue Fund Operating Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department to accept and appropriate up to $250,000 from the Trail of Lights Foundation for payment of costs for City services, and authorize waiver of certain permit, application and similar fees and requirements for the 2020 Trail of Lights in an amount not to exceed $200,000 was approved on consent on Council Member Casar's motion, Council Member Harper-Madison's second on a 10-0 vote with Mayor Adler absent.

For More Information:

Jason Maurer, Sales and Event Manager, 512-974-2427; Sammi Curless, Business Process Specialist 512-974-6716.

Additional Backup Information:

Annually City staff presents City Council with an amendment to the Special Revenue Fund Operating Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department to accept and appropriate the required funds to reimburse the City for direct expenses, as well as to bring forward a fee waiver for City Council approval.

This action authorizes acceptance of funds from the Trail of Lights Foundation to pay the City of Austin expenses (police, fire, ems, inspection fees, and similar costs). This action also authorizes related permit fee/application or similar fee waivers such as permit application fees.

On March 1, 2012, Council authorized negotiation and execution of a co-sponsorship agreement with the RunTex Foundation for the 2012 Trail of Lights event. On March 21, 2013, City Council directed staff to negotiate and execute a 5-year agreement for the Trail of Lights Event, which was assigned to the Trail of Lights Foundation after City Council action in August 2013. In October 2015, the City Council authorized a 5-year co-sponsorship agreement continuing the event through the end of calendar year 2022.

The calendar year 2021 event will be a drive-through event only. No in-person admission can be permitted due to COVID-19 safety guidelines. The event must comply with all Austin Center for Events permit requirements and Health Department safety requirements.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability, Safety, Health and Environment, Culture and Lifelong Learning, Government that Works for All.

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