



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting October 18, 2022
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting October 25, 2022

DATE: October 18, 2022
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Robert Rocha, Fire Chief
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Acceptance of a grant for \$10,000 from The Hartford for the Corpus Christi Fire Department to support community-wide fire safety education efforts and programming

CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing acceptance of a grant from The Hartford in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the Corpus Christi Fire Department to support community-wide fire safety education efforts and programming; and appropriating \$10,000 into Fire Grant Fund.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance and appropriation of a grant from The Hartford, totaling \$10,000 for the Corpus Christi Fire Department. The grant funds will support community-wide fire safety education efforts and programming.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

On September 14, 2022, the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) was awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from The Hartford. The Hartford is an insurance company headquartered in Hartford, Connecticut. The Junior Fire Marshall Program, which is the Hartford's fire safety grant program, began in 1947 and has since deputized more than 112 million Junior Fire Marshals as part of this public education program.

In 2020, The Hartford released The Hartford Fire Index, which ranks the top 150 cities in the U.S. based on their risk of home fires. Corpus Christi ranks 106 out of the 150 cities evaluated. Corpus Christi ranked 97 in the previous assessment which was conducted in 2017.

The Hartford Fire Index is based on a combination of FEMA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data and the survey results from residents in the 200 largest U.S. cities (based on number of housing units). A rate of residential structure fires per 10,000 housing units was calculated for each city using the reported number of annual residential structure fires reported in NFIRS with the total number of housing units reported in the 2010 U.S. Census. Standardized fire rates and survey scores were combined to produce a ranked, composite Home Fire Risk score for each city.

As part of the study, The Hartford pledged to donate \$10,000 to both the public-school districts

and local fire departments in each of the top 150 cities. As a result, the City has been awarded \$10,000 to support fire safety education efforts and programming. The Hartford grant fund uses include, but are not limited to, fire safety awareness and public education within the community and local schools. This is the second time the City has received The Hartford grant award. In 2020, the City received its first \$10,000 award from The Hartford based on its Fire Index score at that time.

The funds are awarded with the expectation that they be used for fire prevention activities and education. The Hartford is an insurance company that promotes fire prevention as part of their community engagement. Accordingly, CCFD will use the award funds for fire prevention and public education. This will include education materials geared towards children consisting of workbooks, coloring books, and plastic fire helmets and badges used to reinforce fire safety messages. CCFD may utilize a portion of the award funds to purchase a prop that is used for fire extinguisher training. This training would target adults or those who may be expected to utilize a fire extinguisher.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to accept this grant and instead find other funding through the City's General Fund in order to purchase the necessary supplies and equipment for the Fire Safety Education program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Acceptance of funds in the amount of \$10,000 and appropriating \$10,000 to the FY 2023 Fire Grants Fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund: 1062 Fire Grants
Organization/Activity: 840028L Hartford – JFM Grant
Mission Element: 888 Revenue
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 340000 Contributions & Donations
Amount: \$10,000

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council authorize the ordinance to accept and appropriate the grant funds in the amount of \$10,000, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance