



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Rey Santos, Mayor
DATE: November 17, 2020
SUBJECT: Authorize Funding to the Beaumont Chamber and Negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Beaumont and the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce

Background and Analysis:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Beaumont has successfully extended its assistance to the small business community. Through the creation of the Beaumont Business Assistance Program (BAP) a total of 24 pandemic impacted businesses each received a grant award of \$3,000. City Council budgeted \$141,000 for the BAP grant program and a balance of \$69,000 is remaining after the grant awards.

The Beaumont Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is a part of the local business community whose mission is to promote local businesses. This non-profit agency has worked to support businesses that have suffered tremendously as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the local business community has suffered, the Chamber has also suffered, and I appeal to the City Council to provide a helping hand by providing \$20,000 in financial support in the form of a City grant. This grant would be paid in two installments of \$10,000 with the first payment being made by December 31, 2020, and the remaining payment made in the first quarter of 2021. This allocation to the Chamber would be funded from the remaining BAP balance.

I also propose that the City Council condition any grant award on the successful negotiation of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Chamber. The MOU must provide for the addition of a member of the City Council, preferably the mayor, as a permanent, full member of the Chamber Board.

Fiscal Impact:

A budget amendment to reallocate \$20,000 from the remaining Beaumont Business Assistance Program would be required within the General Fund. This would have a net impact of \$0 on the General Fund.

Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the City Council award a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce with the condition that a memorandum of understanding is negotiated that provides for the appointment of the Beaumont Mayor to the Chamber Board.