



CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action approving a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a Participation Agreement with the Alamo Regional Security Operations Center.

DATE: June 6, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Information Technology

PRESENTED BY: Brian LeJeune, IT Manager

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

On April 21, 2022, the City Council authorized the City Manager to sign an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement (ILA) for IT Mutual Aid with the City of Boerne. This further enhanced our portfolio of IT information and also assistance in the event of either a cyber incident or need for minor assistance resources (manpower, hardware, software, or knowledge).

IT Staff was welcomed to a tour of the Alamo Regional Security Operations Center (ARSOC) in San Antonio for the regional Texas Association of Information Technology Managers (TAGITM) meeting. This multimillion-dollar facility was created in joint by the City of San Antonio and CPS Energy as an IT "Cyber Fusion Center" where information from various government agencies is collected, assessed, and communicated to members. The ARSOC has courses available free of charge to participating organizations who have employees available to dedicate time towards learning cybersecurity skillsets. This type of knowledge would assist staff not only in the event of a cyber incident but also help the City be more proactive with preventing such an incident in the first place through both education and emerging technologies. ARSOC also offers an added communication channel similar to updates that we receive from the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), but with origins usually from other agencies.

The proposed participation agreement allows the City to participate in ARSOC at no cost for the exchange of real-time information sharing, training, and other cyber-security initiatives. The agreement includes language similar to a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) to limit the information for participants so other organizations' information is kept confidential. One type of information that could be shared with ARSOC is spam and phishing e-mail notifications. Phishing e-mails would be added into their analyses to assist all ARSOC participants. For example, if a phishing threat is identified by the City of San Antonio in the morning, it is possible nearby cities could be next in line later in the day.

Beyond the information sharing associated with the ARSOC their facility also boasts training rooms, conference rooms, loading docks, break rooms, hoteling desk space, and co-location server space.

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

- Meets Strategic Action Plan item 5.5.32 for a Cyber Security Framework.
- Adds channels for IT Staff to receive notifications regarding emerging threats to further protect our infrastructure.
- Provides staff training opportunities.

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Many of the services offered are at no cost to the City as a participant in the agreement.

LEGAL ANALYSIS:

None needed at this time. Reviewed by Legal without comment.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a participation agreement with the City of San Antonio and CPS Energy for the Alamo Regional Security Operations Center.