



Legislation Text

File #: 14-0855, **Version:** 1

Recommendation to authorize City Manager to execute the Twelfth Amendment to Agreement No. 28164 with the Long Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc., to extend for a one-year period and to provide funding in the amount of \$3,928,676 for Fiscal Year 2015. (Citywide)

On October 1, 2002, the City Council approved an agreement with the Long Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. (CVB), to develop a program to promote the city as a convention and tourist destination. Since that time, the CVB has been administering a marketing program to establish the city as a site for conventions and tourism by promoting its attractions, resources, climate, and facilities. The agreement is amended annually to extend the term and to reflect the level of funding appropriated by the City Council.

On September 2, 2014, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY 15) Budget, which includes funding for the agreement with the CVB in the amount of \$3,928,676, a \$200,000 increase from FY 2014. Monies used for the contract are restricted funds from two sources: the Special Advertising and Promotion Fund and the Rainbow Harbor Area Fund. As in prior years, the proposed amendment includes funding for various promotional activities that support the City's economic development objectives such as the Grand Prix.

This year, both the hotel occupancy rate and the average room rate reflect an increase over the same period last year (78.96 percent vs. 76.55 percent and \$141.77 vs. \$139.15/room). The hotel industry in Long Beach and other areas is recovering from being significantly impacted by the nationwide economic situation. Therefore, the CVB's proposed amendment with the City for FY 15 will be key to ensuring a continuous promotion of the city as a convention and tourist destination. As a result of the CVB's efforts, it has received for many years five of the most influential and recognized meeting industry awards. The CVB has been honored by *Successful Meetings Magazine*, *Meetings & Conventions Magazine*, *Corporate & Incentive Travel Magazine*, *Insurance & Financial Management Meetings Magazine*, and *Association Conventions & Facilities Magazine*. In 2007, the CVB was permanently inducted into *Meetings & Conventions Magazine's* "Elite Hall of Fame," an honor reserved for visitor bureaus that have achieved 12 consecutive gold service awards.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Linda Vu on October 2, 2014 and Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on October 3, 2014.

City Council action is requested on October 21, 2014, to proceed with the Twelfth Amendment to Agreement No. 28164 with the CVB.

The total amount of the one-year agreement is \$3,928,676 and is budgeted in the Special Advertising and Promotion Fund (SR 133) and the Rainbow Harbor Area Fund (TF 411) in the City Manager Department (CM). The Special Advertising and Promotion Fund derives its revenue to support this contract from the Transient Occupancy Tax. Approval of this recommendation will provide continued support to the local economy.

Approve recommendation.

PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER