



**CITY OF HOUSTON - CITY COUNCIL**

Meeting Date: 2/11/2025

ALL

Item Creation Date: 11/19/2024

MYR - Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership Agreement (BAHEP)

Agenda Item#: 39.

**Summary:**

ORDINANCE approving and authorizing agreement for Professional Services with **BAY AREA HOUSTON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP** to promote Tourism and Economic Development on behalf of the City of Houston; providing a maximum contract amount - 3 Years - \$150,00.00 - Tourism Promotion Fund

**Background:**

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) is a non-profit organization founded in 1983 with the goal of expanding and diversifying the local economy. It is primarily funded by membership consisting of area governmental entities and the Clear Lake/Bay Area and Houston business community. BAHEP has been under contract with the City since 1999 to provide services to enhance Houston's tourism and economic development. Funding under the proposed contract is to be provided by the City of Houston utilizing hotel occupancy tax proceeds retained by the City as part of its creation of the Houston First Corporation. The agreement is for a 3 year term

In collaboration with the City's economic development team, BAHEP will seek to continue to advocate for funding and policies that support the aerospace and aviation industries, support and expand the Bay Tech incubator and business development program, support business attraction and retention in the industrial districts and at Ellington Airport and continue targeted efforts to coordinate and assist projects such as the Bay Area Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, development of new visitor attractions and international marketing of the City of Houston. BAHEP will also identify and promote programs aimed at developing Houston's workforce through strategic partnerships with regional economic development agencies, educational institutions, and industry groups.

BAHEP will pursue the City's targeted industry recruitment strategy, focusing on healthcare and educational facilities, technology companies, program integration, specialty chemical and high-end manufacturing business that are good targets for future expansion. BAHEP will work with the Houston Airport System to maximize development opportunities to promote and bring new, viable growth to Ellington Airport and will assist with preserving current activities on Ellington, including military and business activities.

BAHEP will nurture a technology outreach program by which a network of engineers, scientists and the business community create new business opportunities in the region. The Administration recommends approval of this three-year contract with BAHEP as described.

The contract requires compliance with the City's "Pay or Play" ordinance regarding health benefits for employees of City contractors. In this case, the contractor provides health benefits to eligible employees in compliance with City policy.

**Fiscal Note:**

Funding for this item is included in the FY2025 Adopted Budget. Therefore, no Fiscal Note is required as stated in the Financial Policies.

Signed by:

Handwritten signature of Gwendolyn F. Tillotson in black ink.

70535789FAD43D  
Gwendolyn F. Tillotson - Bell  
Chief Economic Development Officer

2/11/2025

**Prior Council Action:**

Ordinance No. 2021-1034, 12/1/2021

**Amount and Source of Funding:**

\$150,000.00  
Tourism Promotion Fund  
Fund 2429

**Estimated Spending Authority**

Department	FY2025	Out Years	Total
Mayor's Office	\$16,666.00	\$133,334.00	\$150,000.00

<sup>DS</sup>  
**Contact Information:**

*JC* Jennifer D. Curley, Assistant Director  
Phone: (832) 393-0981 2/11/2025

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Type
PCA 2021-1034	Backup Material
COF	Financial Information
Fund Verification	Financial Information
Ordinance	Ordinance/Resolution/Motion
Coversheet (revised)	Signed Cover sheet
Professional Services Justification Form	Backup Material

<sup>DS</sup>  
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