

It's real.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Councilmembers
Steve Parker, City Manager

From: Susan Caddell, Director of Finance

Subject: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Report

Date: October 27, 2022

On September 29, I received a call from a Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board member inviting me to an event that was happening at Su Casa Café the next evening and it would be considered their Fiestas Patrias event for Hispanic Heritage Month. I had not heard of any mention of this before, so I checked with CVB to see if they were aware of any event. They were able to find an advertisement for an Inaugural Tamale Festival to be held at Su Casa Café on September 30, 2022 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. and was presented by the Seguin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

I received a post event form from them on October 13. They stated that they spent \$350 for this event for the mariachis. The form also stated that nobody stayed in hotels. I spoke with the City Manager, Deputy City Manager and City Attorney concerning this event and if their expenditures qualified. Because it did not actually put heads in beds, it should not qualify, but I reviewed some of the other organizations' post event forms. Some stated that they couldn't determine for sure whether people stayed in hotels, some stated that people did stay in hotels and some left the answer blank. Their agreement for FY22 did specifically state the funding would be for Fiestas Juan Seguin to be held in June. Even though this event is stated in their agreement, City Council could still approve the funding towards another event. I did this with Seguin Art League and pointed it out during my presentation to City Council.

In FY22, they were funded to receive \$7,315. After some discussions with the Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee and other staff mentioned above, I am recommending we fund half of the allocation (\$3,657.50) to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Also included in the agenda for the November 1st City Council meeting are the new agreements for all the civic organizations receiving HOT funding. We have included additional wording in case these situations arise in the future.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.