REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE: 12/1/03

AGENDA SECTION: Consent	ORIGINATING DEPT: Administration	ITEM NO. D-2
ITEM DESCRIPTION: Authorization Of University Center Sales Tax Funding For Regional Sports Center Sound System		PREPARED BY: G. Neumann

The 1998 Rochester local sales tax authorization included approval for funding for up to $20 million for building improvements at the University Center Rochester. The Legislature placed a restriction on this funding so that it could only be used to fund construction costs for the UCR Regional Sports Center and associated recreational facilities. To date $10,458,000of this funding has been expended for the UCR Regional Sports Center. An additional $557,500 was authorized by the Council in 2003 for sports field infrastructure improvements at this sports complex. That project was largely completed this summer and fall.

At this time, RCTC officials and GRAUC are recommending that the Council authorize an additional $500,000 in sales tax funding from the overall $20 million authorization to be used for a sound system in the UCR Regional Sports Center. This request is also supported by the City Park Board and the City Parks and Recreation Department. The Sports Center is used for graduation ceremonies, hosting visiting dignitaries (such as the President) and other events for which the sound system is badly needed. Under our agreement with RCTC for the operation of the Sports Center, RCTC and the educational institutions have usage of the field house during the day, but the community has the use of the field house after 5:00 PM daily and on weekends. It is a joint usage facility that provides significant benefits to the UCR and to the Rochester area community.

RCTC and GRAUC officials will be in attendance at the 12/01/03 COW meeting to discuss this request with the Mayor and City Council.

Council Action Requested. Approval to authorize up to $500,000 in sales tax funding for the UCR Regional Sports Center sound system.

COUNCIL ACTION: Motion by:_____ Second by:_____ to:

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UNIVERSITY CENTER ROCHESTER

Rochester COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL College

The University Center Rochester Regional Sports Center Advisory Board

Meeting: November 5, 2003

Members Present: David Weber, RCTC, Terry Maus, GRAUC, Roy Sutherland, Rochester Park and Recreation, Ron Bastian, Rochester Park and Recreation and Marilyn Hansmann, RCTC

Recommendation on Sound System in the Regional Sports Center

Methodology:

- Cost estimates for budgeting purposed were solicited from four sound/audio firms. Three firms responded. One firm submitted two cost estimates.
- Estimates were broken down into two parts
  1. Sound system
  2. Acoustical treatment
- Range of cost estimates
  1. Sound system – low estimate $178,500 to high estimate $728,300
  2. Acoustical treatment – low estimate $206,000 to high estimate $330,500
- Reasonable cost for sound system and acoustical treatment – based on estimates received $500,000

Recommendation:

- The UCR Regional Sports Center advisory board recommends that the college and GRAUC approach the City Council and request $500,000 of sales tax revenue be designated for acoustical treatment and a sound system.

Next steps:

- Obtain backing of GRAUC
- Request funding from City of Rochester
- Form campus task force of users, sound technicians, and business office staff
- Prepare a request for proposal with detailed specifications and advertise the project
- Review bids and award contract
- Complete project in time for graduations in May and June 2004

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G R A U C

Greater Rochester Area University Center

A Minnesota Non-Profit Corporation Linked to Higher Education

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TO: Rochester City Council Members

FROM: Alison Good
GRAUC Executive Director AG.

DATE: November 25, 2003

RE: GRAUC request for additional sales tax revenues to design, install and complete the acoustic, sound and HVAC treatments of the UCR Regional Sports Center.

At the November 21, 2003 meeting of the GRAUC Board of Directors, the board approved the following recommendation:

> *The GRAUC Campus Development Committee supports the recommendation of the UCR Regional Advisory Board to invest up to $500,000 of sales tax revenues to design, install and complete the acoustic, sound and HVAC treatments of the UCR Regional Sports Center.*

GRAUC recognizes that completing the sound system and acoustical treatment of the campus sports center will significantly enhance UCR's value to the campus and region; will strengthen economic development efforts to attract midweek, evening and weekend sports and convention business and potentially create a revenue source for facility operations; and UCR's reputation as a "destination campus" will be improved when proud parents, families and friends can clearly hear the names called at graduations and awards ceremonies!

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