



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 26, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager
 Subject: Contract: Village of Love to Operate the Telegraph Neighborhood Sacred Rest Drop-In Center

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Village of Love to operate a daytime drop-in center for people experiencing homelessness, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the term of June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

If approved, this resolution will result in an expenditure contract with Village of Love for an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for 12 months of program operations through May 31, 2023. This contract will be funded by the 2021 payment made by the University of California, Berkeley to the City pursuant to the 2021 UC Berkeley – City of Berkeley Settlement Agreement, as stipulated in the terms of the agreement. The City received the 2021 payment in the amount \$4.1 million in August 2021 and these funds including the \$250,000 for this contract were appropriated as part of the First Amendment to the FY 2022 Annual Appropriations Ordinance.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In an effort to create a much-needed increase in the supply of affordable student housing and affordable housing to people experiencing homelessness, the City Council committed \$14.4M in City funding, and authorized staff to apply for up to \$20M more in State funding, to support the development at People's Park. In order for development on the student housing portion of the site, the unsheltered individuals who currently call the Park home will need to be provided an array of services to end their unsheltered status. Furthermore, the population of people experiencing homelessness in the greater Telegraph District/Southside neighborhood are less well served by existing City resources, than people living Downtown, and in South, and West Berkeley.

In May 2020, the University commissioned a study from the Goldman School of Public Policy to consult with individuals living in People's Park and receive recommendations and best practices that would best serve their transition out of homelessness. One idea that was given voice by these unhoused residents was a daytime drop-in center which would provide a safe place, outside of the encampment setting, for them to eat a snack,

wash up, use the restroom, access showers, store belongings, and consult with service providers who could help make referrals to existing services. This model—given voice directly by the people who will be invited to use it—will be supported by the University’s Homeless Outreach Coordinator as well as students and researchers from the Schools of Social Welfare and Public Health, and is an important component of the City and University’s joint effort to resolve the encampment at People’s Park by tailoring services to each individual’s unique needs and wants.

In January, the University secured a vote from the leadership of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley to provide a vacant lot on Haste Street, owned by the Church, for the drop-in center. The University is providing the full cost of capital development at the site to construct the center. In March, the University announced that it had selected and awarded a grant to a social services provider, the Village of Love, to operate the drop-in center and provide services. The scope of work includes a drop-in center open M-F 9:30 am – 4:30 pm that provides snacks and water to participants, a full-time housing navigator, access to computers for housing and employment applications and other business, transportation assistance, storage lockers, and a mail program. The Village of Love will hold the lease with First Presbyterian Church for access to and use of the site.

The terms of the UC Berkeley – City of Berkeley Settlement Agreement require that the City commit from the 2021 annual payment “An amount determined through joint planning between the City and the University will be allocated to fund a day-time drop-in/service center in the Telegraph area for the unhoused population.” After joint consultation with City and University staff leadership, the City identified \$250,000 to operate the program for one year.

Staff are recommending that the Council forego a competitive bidding process (Request for Proposals) for this contract. Since the University has already identified a service provider, a leasing mechanism for the site, and is paying the full cost of the capital expenses associated with the development of the center—and since the City is required to jointly fund this effort pursuant to the Settlement Agreement—there is no competitive process to be had for this contract.

If approved, the contract with Village of Love will commence on June 1, 2022 and extend through May 31, 2023, with the option for the City Manager to extend the term at no cost if necessary. The University’s drop-in center plans are for a two-year lease and a two-year program; however, since the City has never contracted with Village of Love before, staff are recommending a one-year contract and funding commitment at this time, which enables the City to evaluate the agency’s performance before recommending an extension.

BACKGROUND

On July 27, 2021, the City and University executed the Joint Settlement Agreement which, among other things, commits the City to expending from the first annual payment “An amount determined through joint planning between the City and the University will be allocated to fund a day-time drop-in/service center in the Telegraph area for the unhoused population.”

On January 18, 2022, the leadership of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley unanimously approved providing access to a vacant lot on Haste Street owned by the Church for the purposes of the drop-in center. On March 2, 2022, the University awarded a \$500,000 contract to the Village of Love to provide services and operations for the drop-in center at this site.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental impacts associated with this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

There is an unmet need for services to transition unhoused residents out of People’s Park and into indoor settings, as well as to serve the unhoused in the greater Telegraph District/Southside neighborhood, and an agreement between the University and the City of Berkeley to allocate settlement agreement funds for a day-time drop-in/service center in the Telegraph area for the unhoused population

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None. Since the University has already identified a service provider, a leasing mechanism for the site, and is paying the full cost of the capital expenses associated with the development of the drop-in center—and since the City is required to jointly fund this effort pursuant to the Settlement Agreement—there is no competitive process to be had for this contract.

CONTACT PERSON

Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager, 510-981-7045.

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. XX,XXX N.S.

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH VILLAGE OF LOVE TO OPERATE THE TELEGRAPH NEIGHBORHOOD SACRED REST DROP-IN CENTER FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000 FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1, 2022 TO MAY 31, 2023.

WHEREAS, the severe lack of housing affordable to University students, as well as people who are experiencing homelessness or insecurely housed, is contributing to an acute housing shortage that is worsening the rates of homelessness in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, to help address this shortage, the City Council committed on December 14, 2021 to contribute \$14.4M in City funding, and apply for up to \$20M more in State funding, to close the financing for a permanent supportive housing development for people experiencing homelessness at People's Park; and

WHEREAS, People's Park is currently home to a large encampment of unsheltered individuals who will need to be provided an array of services to end their unsheltered status; and

WHEREAS, residents of People's Park were consulted by the University in 2020 to solicit their input as to the services they would require to serve their transition out of the Park, identifying a drop-in Center as a centerpiece program; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2022, Leadership at the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley voted unanimously to grant access to and use of a vacant lot on Haste Street owned by the Church to the University for purposes of establishing a daytime drop-in center; and

WHEREAS, in July 2021, the City and University of California, Berkeley entered into the UC Berkeley – City of Berkeley Joint Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the first annual payment of the Settlement Agreement requires that an amount determined through joint planning between the City and the University be allocated to fund a day-time drop-in/service center in the Telegraph area for the unhoused population; and

WHEREAS, the University awarded a grant on March 2, 2022 to the Village of Love to provide services and operations for the drop-in center at this site.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to enter into a contract and necessary amendments including no-cost term extensions for the period June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 with Village of Love.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract amount will not exceed \$250,000. Contract payments will be paid from the 2021 Annual Payment of the UC Berkeley – City of Berkeley Settlement Agreement, pursuant to Section 3.5.3 of that Agreement, providing that the Village of Love provides all necessary contract documents and complies with the contracting process for community agency contracts.

