



Office of the City Manager

RECESS ITEM
CONSENT CALENDAR
September 15, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Erin Steffen, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Contract: Orsolya Kuti, DVM to Provide On-site Veterinary Services for Berkeley Animal Care Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution ratifying the action taken by the City Manager during recess to execute a contract and any amendments with Orsolya Kuti, DVM for on-site veterinary services for Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS) for FY2021-2023, which establishes a contract in an amount not to exceed \$180,000.

NEGATIVE EFFECT IF ACTION IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER COUNCIL RECESS

The purchase order maximum amount for veterinary care will be exceeded prior to September 15, 2020. If the action is delayed until after the City Council recess, the City will be unable to provide essential veterinary care services at the Berkeley animal shelter, such as State and Berkeley Municipal Code mandated spay and neutering for stray or adopted animals; prescription or use of medication or anesthesia; and suturing of wounds. All necessary procedures would likely be referred to an emergency vet clinic, which is prohibitively expensive.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Berkeley Animal Care Services regularly contracts with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) to provide veterinary services two days per week onsite at the Dona Spring Animal Shelter. The previous DVM contract was terminated by the DVM in February 2020. The new contract will be for a three-year period from July 16, 2020 to July 15, 2023. The total contract cost of \$180,000 will come from the Berkeley Animal Care Services General Fund budget code 011-21-203-000-0000-000-424-612410, which has sufficient funds in the FY 2021 Budget to fund the first year of the contract.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In FY 2018-2020, Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS) contracted with a local veterinarian to provide 16 hours per week of onsite veterinary service at the Dona Spring Animal Shelter. The contracted veterinarian terminated the contract in February 2020. Since that time, BACS has used DVMs to provide onsite veterinary services on a per-diem basis as well as using community veterinary clinics to provide offsite services.

BACS is a full-service municipal animal care and control agency, enforcing local and state laws throughout the City of Berkeley (COB) and the City of Albany. BACS is also contracted to shelter animals for the cities of Emeryville and Piedmont. BACS is an open-door facility accepting approximately 1,700 stray and homeless animals annually.

BACS has a constant influx of animals that need to receive affordable veterinary care, treatment and spay/neuter services. The BACS shelter is open to the public seven days a week to receive stray, surrendered and confiscated animals. Additionally, field services are provided seven days week during which Animal Control Officers impound stray, surrendered and confiscated animals. Many animals arrive at the shelter sick or injured and in need of immediate veterinary care. On-site veterinary services include, but are not limited to: examining and diagnosing shelter animals, treating sick or injured animals, performing spay/neuter surgeries, performing other routine surgeries.

In order to adhere to the BACS Euthanasia Policy and to maintain the current high live release rate of 90%, sick or injured animals must obtain necessary treatment so that they have a much better chance of rescue or adoption.

BACKGROUND

The FY 2019/20 Veterinary Services contract, Specification No. 20-11389-C, was released for bids in February 2020. There were three respondents. Orsolya Kuti DVM was selected from among the respondents, due to their shelter medicine experience and schedule availability.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Orsolya Kuti is a local veterinarian who has practiced veterinary medicine since 2014 and has specialized in animal shelter medicine since 2017. Dr. Kuti can be consistently available to the animal shelter and is able to provide a wide range of general and specialized services at an hourly rate consistent with the local market.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative to engaging in a contract with Dr. Kuti is to continue using Dr. Kuti and a second available veterinarian on a per diem basis. The limit of spending for per diem veterinarian is \$5000 within a Fiscal Year. The need for on-site veterinary services is 16 hours per week and the cost of veterinary services needed would exceed the limit of permitted spending for per diem vendors in sixty (60) days.

CONTACT PERSON

Amelia Funghi, Animal Services Manager, (510) 981-6603

Contract: Orsloya Kuti, DVM for On-site veterinary services

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: ORSOLYA KUTI, DVM FOR ONSITE VETERINARY SERVICES FOR
BERKELEY ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

WHEREAS, BACS has a constant influx of animals that need to receive immediate and affordable veterinary care and treatment; and

WHEREAS, sick or injured animals that obtain necessary procedures and/or treatment/s have a much better chance of rescue or adoption; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide veterinary care and oversight on the premises for 16 hours per week; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Orsolya Kuti submitted a highly qualified bid to provide on-site veterinary services at the Dona Spring Animal Shelter; and

WHEREAS, the contract will be funded as a General Fund allocation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council ratifies the action taken by the City Manager authorizing the establishment of a contract for \$180,000 and any amendments with Dr. Orsolya Kuti, DVM, for on-site veterinary services for Berkeley Animal Care Services (BACS). The contract will be for \$60,000 per year for FY2021-2023, with a total amount not to exceed \$180,000 and will be subject to the City's annual appropriation process.