



Office of the City Manager

02CONSENT CALENDAR

April 27, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Darrin Rafferty, Acting Assistant to the City Manager

Subject: Contract: Dorothy Day House to operate shelter at 742 Grayson

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Dorothy Day House to operate a shelter at 742 Grayson through September 30, 2022, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,109,522.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This resolution will fund the Dorothy Day House (DDH) 24-hour shelter operation at 742 Grayson using general fund Measure P funding, for an annual cost of \$783,192. Funds would be expended in FY 2021, 2022 and 2023.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Based on the enduring homelessness crisis, the City Council has repeatedly extended Resolution No. 68,206 – N.S., which declared a homeless shelter crisis in the City of Berkeley. On January 21, 2020 the City Council passed a recommendation for the City Manager to establish an outdoor emergency shelter in Berkeley.

Staff spent more than one year looking for a suitable location for the outdoor emergency shelter, however to date, a viable location for one has not been identified. Given the lack of an outdoor location, staff entered into negotiations for the lease of a property for the purpose of an indoor emergency shelter. This property has the ability to accommodate over 50 individuals, appropriately spaced for ample social distancing.

The property that the City plans to use as the emergency shelter needs an organization to design and implement a new program to provide care and shelter to the members of our unhoused homeless community. DDH is well versed in the needs of this population as well as the resources and systems that are available to build and foster connections that will ultimately work towards providing positive long-term solutions for the unsheltered homeless community members.

BACKGROUND

DDH has operated the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter (BESS) for fifteen years. Up until FY 2017, DDH operated BESS as an overnight emergency shelter on a first-come,

first served basis for up to 45 nights for a maximum capacity of 65 people each night dependent on weather conditions.

In addition to this program, DDH has operated an expanded and extended winter shelter on a nightly basis since September of 2018. The DDH Shelter provides nightly shelter for up to 52 homeless people each night.

As of the 2019 Point in Time count, there were 813 unsheltered homeless individuals living in Berkeley. These numbers have surely increased since the last count was complete for many reasons including the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial and employment instability it has caused in many different populations. The City has made robust investments in affordable housing and supportive services, however these outlays of funds has proven to be insufficient to house the entire unsheltered homeless population of the City. In January 2020 the City Council directed the City Manager to establish an outdoor emergency shelter as a short-term solution to address the immediate needs of people living outdoors. This item seeks to have the City enter into a contract for management of an emergency shelter.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental impacts associated with this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

DDH has a long history of operating the winter shelter, including an expanded and extended nightly shelter for the past few winter seasons. DDH has successfully operated a nightly shelter for more than four years. This contract would utilize the expertise of DDH in starting up and operating shelters, and also build upon the established relationship between DDH and the City to offer at least 50 shelter beds through at least March 2022.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Staff considered a competitive solicitation (RFP). However, the urgent nature of providing shelter, and that an RFP timeline would significantly impact getting a shelter up and running contributed to the decision that an RFP would not be feasible or in the best interests of the City for this specific project.

CONTACT PERSON

Darrin Rafferty, Acting Assistant to the City Manager, 510-981-7000

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. XX,XXX N.S.

CREATING THE SHELTER PROJECT AT 742 GRAYSON AND AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH DOROTHY DAY HOUSE TO OPERATE THE SHELTER FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,109,522 FOR THE PERIOD MAY 16, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

WHEREAS, On January 21, 2020 City Council directed the City Manager to establish an outdoor emergency shelter as a short-term solution to address the immediate needs of people living outdoors and exposed to the elements, transportation-related risks, among other dangerous conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager's Office is finalizing a lease, pending City Council approval, for the use of a large warehouse and outdoor space as a temporary indoor-outdoor shelter for individuals living in tents and RVs; and

WHEREAS, the City requires the services of an organization with expertise in serving the homeless community to provide meals, security, building maintenance, and social services on site, 24-hours per day, seven days per week; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day House has experience with and is known to the individuals who might take advantage of this shelter service; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day House has existing contracts with the City and has provided high-quality shelter services in Berkeley since 2016; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day House has the expertise, capacity, and interest, to rapidly expand their operations to provide urgently needed shelter to a population most vulnerable to both the housing crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, to undertake a project of this scope, Dorothy Day House will incur significant upfront costs for which funding will be needed prior to the operation of the shelter.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to enter into a contract and any necessary amendments for the period of May 16, 2021 through September 30, 2022 with Dorothy Day House. The contract amount will not exceed \$1,109,522, with a payment of \$61,842 to be advanced prior to the opening of the shelter to facilitate payment of upfront costs. Contract payments will be paid from general fund Measure P funding.