



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2017

TO: Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

FROM: Charles S. Bryant, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: **Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Appropriating \$40,000 From The Affordable Housing Fund (Fund 299) To Homeless Programs In The Economic Development And Housing Division Budget For Fiscal Year 2016-17 (Account Number 299-87420) For Homeless Services**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution appropriating \$40,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund for homeless services.

BACKGROUND

Homelessness and housing instability have wide-ranging negative impacts. Individuals or families who are experiencing homelessness, or at risk of becoming homeless, are often unable to reach their full potential at home, at work, at school, or in the community. Homelessness is a symptom of a wide range of challenges. The high cost of housing in Alameda County increases cases of homelessness and presents a barrier to its prevention.

On February 3, 2015, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 15-10, the City of Emeryville Homeless Strategy ("Strategy", see Attachment 2). The Strategy is designed to address the problems of homelessness in our community and to work with existing funders, providers, and neighboring jurisdictions to provide a coordinated response to homelessness. The Strategy includes a list of action items for the following objectives:

- Prevent at-risk persons from becoming homeless or returning to homelessness
- Remove barriers to accessing homeless services
- Participate in regional strategies for preventing and reducing homelessness
- Provide Housing Services

The two-year operating budget for fiscal years 2014-2016 designated \$40,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund (Fund 299) for homeless outreach. Using these funds, the City contracted with Berkeley Food and Housing Project (BFHP) to provide street outreach, engagement, harm reduction, and case management of persons experiencing

homelessness in Emeryville, through December 31, 2016. The current contract allows for street outreach in teams of two outreach workers once per week.

DISCUSSION

In the summer of 2016, staff met with the Police Department to discuss the efficacy of the homeless outreach program. These meetings identified several additional needs including additional days of outreach, evening hours, assistance with obtaining identification papers and resources to house people experiencing homelessness.

To address these additional needs, staff proposes to contract with BFHP for the period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. The proposed contract increases the street outreach to two outreach teams a week with one outreach team working one evening a month to engage people otherwise not seen during daytime hours, with a special focus on the Emeryville Marina. Proposed services include assistance in obtaining identification papers and filling out housing applications. BFHP has submitted a proposal for the services outlined above for a total contract amount not to exceed \$36,081. This falls below the \$45,000 threshold requiring City Council approval, and can be approved administratively. However, an appropriation of \$40,000 is needed, which does require City Council approval. This is discussed further below under "Fiscal Impact".

FISCAL IMPACT

The two-year operating budget for fiscal years 2016-2018 included \$20,000 for the homeless outreach and case management program for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 30, 2017. However, the increased scope of services outlined above requires an additional appropriation of \$16,081 from the Affordable Housing Fund. Additionally, staff believes budget capacity to provide support of the countywide homelessness coordinated entry system, rapid rehousing services, and/or support of neighboring jurisdictions' homelessness services and projects would be beneficial. Consequently, staff recommends a budget appropriation of \$40,000 which would provide \$23,919 of budget authority for homelessness services beyond the proposed BFHP contract, with these funds deployed as needs arise.

PREPARED BY: Catherine Firpo, Housing Coordinator

Chadrick Smalley, Economic Development and Housing Manager

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. City of Emeryville Homeless Strategy