



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 26, 2021

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 No. 32100161 Amendment: Dorothy Day House for Services at
 742 Grayson Street

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend contract number 32100161 with Dorothy Day House, adding \$548,096 for a new total not to exceed amount of \$1,657,618, to include the operation of homeless shelter for people living in vehicles in an off-street safe parking program for Recreational Vehicles at 742 Grayson Street, and extending the contract through September 30, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This amendment to extend and increase the funding of an existing contract will fund the Dorothy Day House (DDH) off-street RV parking program at 742 Grayson. Staff proposes using General Fund - Measure P funding in the amount of \$398,096 as well as a recent donation of \$150,000 to the City of Berkeley, Berkeley Homeless Fund earmarked for this program, for a combined additional annual cost of \$548,096. The donation of the \$150,000 and the \$398,096 in General Fund – Measure P will be included in FY 2022 First Amendment to the Annual Appropriations in November. Funds would be expended in FY 2022 and FY 2023. Because the Homeless Services Panel of Experts has exhausted all of its regular meetings for Calendar Year 2021, staff did not have the opportunity to bring this proposed use of Measure P funding before the Panel.

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. On April 27, 2021 the City Council adopted resolution 69,808-N.S. authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with DDH to operate a temporary indoor-outdoor shelter for individuals living in tents and RVs at 742 Grayson.

This amendment to the existing contract (#32100161) would allow an additional homeless sheltering program to be setup at 742 Grayson that would allow approximately 40 recreational vehicles (RVs) to park in this lot and off of city streets.

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The Safe RV parking program will provide temporary parking accommodations for up to 40 households living in their RVs, and is designed to be as low barrier as possible. It will have a fence for security, but no nighttime curfews. Pets will be accommodated, but not minor children. (In the event we encounter families with minor children in the course of our outreach, we immediately refer them to family shelter beds through the Family Front Door.) There will be water for hand-washing and portable toilets; for guests that prefer to use their own septic systems, we are creating a voucher program for vehicles to dump their wastewater at a nearby off-site licensed dump station. Additionally, there will be some support for fixing vehicles that need maintenance to remain operational. Due to cost and timing constraints, there will not be electrical hookups, but guests can operate a personal generator if they have one, and there will be charging for personal devices at the on-site office.

The property that the City plans to use is already under lease to the City through September 2022.

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.

On April 27, 2021, Council authorized contract number 32100161 with Dorothy Day House to operate the Horizon Transitional Village program at 742 Grayson Street. This program provides 50 beds to unsheltered Berkeley residents in a low-barrier setting.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACT

Opening the safe RV parking program will allow up to 40 RVs to move off the streets and into facilities that include regular trash service and hygiene facilities. Additionally, on a pilot basis, those RVs that wish to use their own septic systems will be provided vouchers to dump their wastewater at an approved nearby facility. This will create a number of environmental benefits for the City, namely:

- The reduction of accumulated trash and debris on public streets and into storm drains;
- Reduction of illegal wastewater discharge into the City's storm drains, which ultimately drain into the Bay; and

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- Freeing up of more on-street parking, reducing the need for vehicles in the neighborhood to circle while looking for parking.

Vehicles that already operate personal generators on the street will be allowed to continue operating them at the site, but no new generators will be purchased for program guests, thus adding no net new emissions.

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. DDH has also been operating the Horizon Transitional Village Program at 742 Grayson since July 2021. This addition to the 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 a new RV parking program through at least March 2022.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

An amendment and extension of the existing DDH contract for additional homeless services is most expeditious and efficient so other actions were not considered.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachment:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NUMBER ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 32100161 AMENDMENT WITH DOROTHY DAY HOUSE FOR SERVICES AT 742 GRAYSON STREET

WHEREAS, the severe housing and shelter shortage in the Bay Area has led thousands of households to find shelter in Recreational Vehicles (RVs); and

WHEREAS, city streets were not designed to accommodate permanent vehicular residency, creating a number of impacts including trash and wastewater discharge; accumulation of possessions that obstruct sidewalks and the vehicular right-of-way; and the elimination of parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorized contract number 32100161 with Dorothy Day House on April 27, 2021, creating the Horizon Transitional Village Program at 742 Grayson Street; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has entered into a lease for the property at 742 Grayson Street, which includes a large outdoor lot that can accommodate up to 40 RVs; and

WHEREAS, providing safe, off-street places for RV residents to park their vehicles and have access to sanitary facilities is an emerging best practice, providing dignity to the RV residents and minimizing impacts on city streets; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has received a \$150,000 donation to the Berkeley Homeless Fund, to be used to offset the operating expenses associated with this safe, off-street RV parking program; and

WHEREAS, the remainder of the funding for this contract amendment will come from General Fund – Measure P Fund (totaling \$398,096) and will be included in FY 2022 First Amendment to the Annual Appropriations in November.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City manager or her designee to amend Contract No. 32100161 to create a safe parking program for RVs at 742 Grayson Street, adding \$548,096 for a new total not to exceed amount of \$1,657,618, and extending the contract through September 30, 2022.