



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 28, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police
Subject: Contract No. 32200152 Amendment: Cindy K. Hull & Associates Forensic Consulting Services, LLC

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend Contract No. 32200152 and any necessary future amendments with Cindy K. Hull & Associates Forensic Consulting Services, LLC for the Police Department, increasing the contract amount by \$150,000 for a total not to exceed the amount of \$200,000 with the contract end date of October 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommendation would support an ongoing operational expense required for solving criminal cases in a timely manner. The funding for this contract is allocated from the State Proposition 172 Fund (budget code 126-71-702-805-0000-000-421-612990).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Berkeley Police Department currently contracts with Cindy K. Hull & Associates Forensic Consulting Services, LLC for latent examination services. It can be difficult to estimate the dollar amount required annually as it can change significantly from year to year depending on the cases submitted for examination. The Department will exceed the current \$50,000 contract limits set when this contract was amended in 2022. This increase will allow the Department to continue to examine latent fingerprints for criminal investigations. This enables the potential identification of a suspect based on fingerprints recovered at a crime scene and may result in the suspect being arrested and charged faster.

Due to the unpredictable nature of the contract usage, the department has expended nearly \$24,000 since the 2022 amendment and has only \$6,000 remaining of the \$50,000 contract. In order to continue processing fingerprint evidence to substantiate charges against suspects, the department is requesting this contract amendment.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the Department entered into a services contract with CK Hull & Associates to obtain latent fingerprint examination services. CK Hull & Associates was added when the California Department of Justice, Automated Latent Print Section was unable to keep up with the caseload from the Berkeley Police Department. CK Hull & Associates (Cindy K. Hull) is a certified latent print examiner with the International Association for Identification, the Coordinator of the Northern California Forensic Study group, an active member of the California Association of Criminalists, currently serves on the American Academy of Forensic Science Services Standard Board (ASB)- Friction Ridge Consensus Board Member, served as an elective member of the executive board of the California State Division of the International Association for Identification for more than nine years, and President from 2014-2015. CK Hull & Associates is located in Martinez, CA and provides forensic consulting, latent examination, comparison, and expert courtroom testimony.

Prior to our partnership with CK Hull & Associates, the Department utilized the California Department of Justice Automated Latent Print Section DOJ/ALPS for latent fingerprint casework. The Department of Justice is responsible for numerous police agencies throughout the state. They currently carry a backlog of 1-2 years, with Berkeley Police Department latent casework still pending from the year 2021.

CK Hull & Associates provides latent fingerprint examination, comparison, and expert courtroom testimony services for the Berkeley Police Department. Latent fingerprint analysis is a critical step in the development of potential responsible parties and the identification/exclusion of these individuals associated with criminal cases. It is vital that the Berkeley Police Department have latent fingerprints recovered from crime scenes analyzed in an expeditious manner. The standard turnaround time for CK Hull & Associates is 5-14 days with expedited services available on request.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

CK Hull & Associates provides digital submission forms reducing the amount of paper required to forward and process requests. The Department of Justice Automated Latent Print Section is located in Sacramento, CA. The close proximity of Martinez, CA reduces vehicles on the road and greenhouse gas emissions.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The cost associated with latent fingerprint examination is an operational expense for which the Berkeley Police Department is currently responsible. This service provides pertinent information to suspect identification that is invaluable to the safety of all members of the Berkeley community. An amendment to increase funds for this contract will allow the Department to continue to meet the latent fingerprint examination requirements of its investigations.

CONTACT PERSON

Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police, 981-5700

Attachment:

1. Resolution

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

CONTRACT NO. 32200152 AMENDMENT: CK HULL & ASSOCAITES FORENSIC CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Police Department is responsible for the investigation of criminal cases in the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the closure of criminal investigations will bring relief to the families of the victims and reduce fear in the community; and

WHEREAS, the use of latent fingerprint examination is essential to solving crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Police Department primarily enlists the services of Cindy K. Hull & Associates for the timely examination of latent fingerprints; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to have a Latent Print Examiner certified with the International Association for Identification in order to ensure the consistent examination and evaluation of latent fingerprint evidence; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Police Department has identified latent fingerprint examination services as an operational expense for which the Department is responsible, funds from the State Proposition 172 Fund will be the primary source of funding; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that, the City Manager is authorized to execute the contract and any amendments with Cindy K. Hull & Associates Forensic Consulting Services, LLC to provide latent fingerprint examination and evaluation services for an additional \$150,000 for an amount not to exceed \$200,000, subject to the City's annual budget appropriation process.