



Rashi Kesarwani
Councilmember District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 26, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Author)

SUBJECT: Budget Referral: Expand Scope of the Downtown Streets Team to Include Services within the Gilman District

RECOMMENDATION

Referral to the City Manager and the FY 2022-23 budget process \$50,000 annually to expand the scope of services for the Downtown Streets Team to address the need for enhanced services around commercial and industrial areas in the Gilman District twice weekly.

The Gilman District is defined as the commercial area west of San Pablo Avenue to Eastshore Highway and, on the south, Gilman Street north to the Albany border.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Gilman District Experiences High Levels of Trash and Debris. The Gilman District—west of San Pablo Avenue to Eastshore Highway and, on the south, Gilman Street north to the Albany border—has long been the heart of the City’s manufacturing and industrial sectors, while more recently becoming home to wineries, breweries, artisanal food production facilities, non-profits, and maker spaces. The area experiences the following challenges related to trash and debris:

- Build up of trash and debris on sidewalks and streets that obstruct access
- High volume of rodents
- Illegal dumping

The Downtown Streets Team is Deployed to Numerous Other Berkeley Business Districts. The City currently has a contract with the Downtown Streets Team (DST)¹ to do a variety of manual beautification services, including removal of leaves and trash from sidewalks and gutters, graffiti abatement, and poster and

¹ See [Downtown Streets Team](#) webpage

advertising removal from commercial areas. These services complement Public Works' baseline services that use mechanical street sweepers and pressure washing, and removal of illegally dumped materials from the public right-of-way. Both types of services help keep an area clean and well maintained. The DST deploys teams of local, low-income and homeless residents to service seven different commercial and high-use areas throughout the City. These areas include:

- Downtown Berkeley, serviced three times per week
- Telegraph Avenue, serviced three times per week
- West Berkeley (University and San Pablo area), serviced three times per week
- South Berkeley, serviced two times per week
- North Shattuck, serviced one time per week
- Elmwood, serviced one time per week
- Solano Avenue, soon to be serviced two times per week

All the teams work cooperatively with community agencies to ensure team members receive training for the jobs they perform. The goal is to promote self-sufficiency through job training and build effective work habits as well as to provide assistance in securing permanent housing.

The Gilman District Deserves Similar Investment as Other Business Districts.

The Downtown Streets Team provides a low-barrier volunteer work experience model where unhoused participants receive case management, employment services and non-cash basic needs support in exchange for beautifying their community. This investment in keeping the district clean can have an outsized impact as locations that are well maintained tend to invite greater public use which helps to revitalize an area, while poorly maintained and degraded areas invite undesirable behaviors and elements. Regular attention to litter and debris removal and graffiti abatement will create a more welcoming environment for customers, workers, and visitors.

BACKGROUND

The Downtown Streets Team has provided support to the City of Berkeley's Clean City program since August of 2018 (see attachment). The Clean City Program, developed in 1989, aims to provide clean, debris-free public rights of way within the City by assisting with neighborhood clean-ups, street sweeping, and removal of illegally dumped materials. Over the years the program expanded to include designated hand sweeping zones throughout the City; the work of the DST fulfills this objective as teams deployed to targeted areas hand sweep sidewalks and gutters, complementing the efforts of our Public Works Department.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$50,000 annually for Downtown Streets Team services in the Gilman District two-times per week.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Keeping our business districts clean and healthy is one of the City's strategic priorities "to provide state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities."² The Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) also requires the City to reduce the trash flowing into the Bay and local waterway via our storm drainage system. Hand sweeping sidewalks and gutters helps remove built up leaves and debris, which prevents litter from entering the system. Codornices Creek, home to steelhead trout, a threatened species, borders the city along the length of the Gilman District and has been undergoing a process of restoration since the 1990s.

CONTACT PERSON

Rashi Kesarwani, Council District 1

(510) 981-7110

Attachments:

Downtown Streets Team 2018 Contract

² See the City's [Strategic Plan](#) webpage



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 26, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Phillip L. Harrington, Director, Department of Public Works

Subject: Contract: Downtown Streets Team Hand Sweeping, Graffiti Abatement, and Poster Removal Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Downtown Streets Team to provide supplemental hand sweeping, graffiti abatement, and poster removal services to support the City's Clean City Division. Contract amount is not to exceed \$645,304 for the two-year period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Initial funding of \$332,652 for Year One of the Contract is allocated in the FY 2019 Public Works Streets and Operations Division budget account code 820-5502-432-3038; funding for Year Two of the Contract, FY 2020, is subject to appropriation.

YEAR	FISCAL YEAR	AMOUNT	BUDGET CODE
ONE	FY 2019	\$322,652	820-5502-432-3038
TWO	FY 2020	\$322,652	Subject to Appropriation
TOTAL FY 2019 & FY 2020 NTE		\$645,304	

The contract has been entered into the Contract Management System (CMS) as CMS No. RCWTM.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Department of Public Works Clean City Program, (the Program) is responsible for maintaining clean City streets, gutters, and sidewalks by providing mechanical street sweeping, pressure washing, and removal of illegally dumped items from rights of way, litter and graffiti abatement services.

To supplement the baseline services provided by Public Works staff; ensuring that the Program meets standards of cleanliness and safety and promotes beautification of the City's commercial districts, the Clean City Program relies upon contractor supplied hand sweeping, graffiti abatement, and poster removal services.

The contract for these supplemental services has expired; thus, the Clean City Program has not had the critical assistance required to maintain standards of cleanliness, safety, and appearance in the City's commercial districts.

BACKGROUND

The Clean City Program was developed in 1989 with the objective of providing clean, debris-free public rights of way for the City. In the 1990s the Program expanded to include designated hand sweeping zones for the City's South Berkeley, West Berkeley, Telegraph Avenue, and Downtown Berkeley commercial districts. In 2012, with an emphasis on further enhancing the appearance of these commercial districts, the City issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for supplemental hand sweeping, leaf and litter abatement services (Specification No. 12-10677-C) to support the Public Works staff, ultimately entering into a contract, which expired December 31, 2017.

The Department of Public Works does not have sufficient staff to absorb the hand sweeping, debris and litter abatement duties previously performed by the contractor. Furthermore, to enable the Clean City Program to expand its services to three additional commercial districts: Solano, North Shattuck, and Elmwood, Public Works issued a new RFP (Specification No. 18-11185-C) in December 2017 at an estimated cost of \$640,000. Four responses were received in January 2018. A panel of three managers representing the City's Public Works, Health Housing and Community Services, and Economic Development Departments evaluated the responses against the requirements specified in the RFP. Downtown Streets Team (DST) was selected as the lowest responsive and best qualified bidder to meet the Clean City Program's needs; demonstrating both a thorough comprehension of the scope of services to be delivered and a proven program model by which very low income, unhoused persons working as DST Team Members to beautify their community, receive employment services, training, and other support to promote self-sufficiency in preparation for reentering the workforce and securing permanent housing.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP) requires the City to reduce the amount of trash flowing into local waterways and the San Francisco Bay via the City's storm drainage system. Hand sweeping in commercial districts helps to prevent litter from entering the City's storm drainage system. As required by the MRP, the Public Works Department has installed more than 400 Full Trash Capture Devices (FTCDs) in catch basins throughout the City. FTCDs are concentrated in the City's commercial districts as these districts are among the highest trash generating areas. Hand-sweeping prevents trash from getting caught in the FTCDs, reducing the amount of maintenance required to be performed by Public Works staff on these devices.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The DST Program is designed to complement the City's Clean City Program by maintaining clear, unobstructed pedestrian rights of way and enhancing the appearance of the City's seven commercial districts. Additionally, the DST Program, as operated in other cities throughout Northern California, has been proven successful in delivering contracted services and in placing its team members into employment and permanent housing.

Without the support from DST to supplement baseline services provided by Public Works staff, the Clean City Program would be unable to maintain established standards of cleanliness and beautification in the City's seven commercial districts.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions were considered. Without the supplemental support provided by a contracted vendor, the Clean City Program is unable to maintain cleanliness and appearance standards in the City's commercial districts.

CONTACT PERSON

Kem Loong, Superintendent of Operations, Department of Public Works (510) 981-6479

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT: DOWNTOWN STREETS TEAM FOR HAND SWEEPING, GRAFFITI ABATEMENT, AND POSTER REMOVAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City's Department of Public Works Clean City Program is responsible for maintaining clean, unobstructed sidewalks and gutters, and an enhanced appearance in the City's seven commercial districts; and

WHEREAS, Public Works staff relies upon supplemental, contractor-provided hand sweeping, graffiti abatement, and poster removal services to maintain established standards of cleanliness and beautification; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to supporting programs which promote the low income, un-housed community in becoming more self-sufficient through job training and leadership opportunities to rebuild effective work habits, and with assistance in securing permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, the City issued a request for written proposals from qualified firms to provide supplemental hand sweeping, graffiti abatement, and poster removal services, (Specification No. 18-11185-C); and received four qualifying vendor responses; and

WHEREAS, a management team representing the City's Public Works, Health Housing and Community Services, and Economic Development Departments evaluated each of the proposals for cost, experience, qualifications, responsiveness, and references; and determined that Downtown Streets Team (DST) was the lowest and most responsive, best qualified bidder to meet specific City needs; and

WHEREAS, initial funding is available in the FY2019 budget 820-5502-432-3038 and subsequent funding for FY2020 is subject to appropriation; the contract has been entered into the Contract Management System (CMS) as CMS No. RCWTM.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments or extensions with Downtown Streets Team to provide supplemental Hand Sweeping, Graffiti Abatement, and Poster Removal Services for the City's Clean City Program, for a total not to exceed \$645,304 from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020. A record signature copy of said contract will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

