

Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 14, 2004

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Subject: Donation from Bayer HealthCare to the Animal Care Shelter

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution accepting a donation from Bayer HealthCare to the Animal Shelter in the sum of \$2,500.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The donation of \$2,500 will be deposited in the Animal Shelter donation fund: 139-0704-368.20-99

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

As part of its community support, Bayer HealthCare is making a number of contributions to several non-profit organizations. These include health, education, arts and other deserving social causes, including the care of animals provided by the City's animal services department.

The Animal Shelter runs a low-cost spay/neuter program for the residents of Berkeley and for people adopting animals from the shelter. The City funds the program at a cost of \$30,000 per year. However in FY2004, the actual cost of the program was \$44,000 and had to be subsidized from Animal Shelter salary savings. A similar shortfall is expected in FY2005.

Veterinarians have increased their fees by 50% over the last two years. The shelter treats sick and injured animals that have a good chance of recovery and adoption. This is very costly and donations are often used to cover these extraordinary veterinary bills.

The volunteer program is flourishing and with that comes the need to provide leashes, collars, treats and toys. These are paid for from the animal shelter donation fund.

BACKGROUND

A non-profit group started the SNYP program in 2000. The program offers low cost spay/neuters to residents of Berkeley and shelter adopters and is free for owners of pitbulls and rottweilers and for residents with low incomes. The City Council agreed to contribute \$30,000 each year and the non-profit group would fundraise to help support the program. In 2002 the non-profit group ceased to exist and the City took over funding the whole program. As the Animal Shelter and its programs have become better known the SNYP program has been used to capacity. Last fiscal year the SNYP funding was depleted in 8 months. In order to make the program available for the

remainder of the fiscal year, a subsidy of \$14,000 was necessary from FY03 Animal Shelter salary savings. This fiscal year, half the SNYP funding has been used in 4 months thus the shelter is, once again, expecting a considerable shortfall in funds.

Each day, an average of 15 volunteers come to the shelter to enrich the lives of the animals and to make them more adoptable. This includes walking and training dogs, giving them treats and toys, playing and socializing with cats and bathing and grooming the animals. The shelter supplies leashes, collars, treats, grooming equipment and toys for this program. Other than the volunteer coordinator position no additional funds were added for this program.

Some of the animals that come to the shelter have severe illnesses or injuries. However, if the animal is highly adoptable and will recover with medical care, the shelter may elect to put extensive resources into the animal including expensive veterinary work. Veterinary fees for these special cases are often paid for from the donations fund.

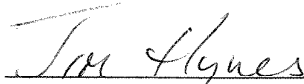
RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The shelter already receives donations from the public and the funds are used for the programs outlined above. The cost of goods and services are increasing continually and any donations are greatly appreciated in order to ensure that the animals in our care receive the best treatment possible and that the spay/neuter program continues throughout the fiscal year.

CONTACT PERSON

Kate O'Connor, Animal Shelter Manager (510) 981 6601

Approved:



Jim Hynes, Assistant to the City Manager

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

APPROVING A DONATION FROM BAYER HEALTHCARE TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER
IN THE SUM OF \$2,500

WHEREAS, funding for the low cost Spay/Neuter Your Pet (SNYP) program is expected to be \$15,000 short for FY2005; and

WHEREAS, the SNYP program offers low cost spay/neuter services to residents of Berkeley and pet adopters and offers free spay/neuter for pitbulls and rottweilers and low income residents; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer program has increased dramatically and the shelter supplies volunteers with leashes, collars, grooming equipment, toys and treats for use with shelter animals; and

WHEREAS, other than the volunteer coordinator position, no additional funds were granted to the shelter for the program; and

WHEREAS, veterinarians have increased their prices by 50% in the last two years; and

WHEREAS, some animals at the shelter have severe illnesses or injuries that are treatable but are expensive; and

WHEREAS, the animal shelter already collects donations from the public for these programs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley accepts the donation from Bayer HealthCare to the Animal Shelter in the sum of \$2,500

