



CITY COUNCIL

Darryl Moore
Councilmember District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 13, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Darryl Moore
Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Refer \$8,000 to the Mid-year Budget Process in Order to do Critical Repairs to
the Step Van for Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council refers the following to the budget process: A request for \$8,000 to be used to do basic repairs/maintenance to the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution's (NEED) step van in order to keep it functional.

BACKGROUND:

Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED) is celebrating its sixteenth year of providing free syringe exchange and HIV/hepatitis prevention services. We currently reach an average of 260 persons and exchange an average of 12,750 syringes per week at three exchange sites in Berkeley. The City has supported NEED's efforts since 1993, and the quality and quantity of our services has grown during the years. For the past nine years, NEED has received \$52,000 per year from the City and smaller grants from foundations and private donors. We have had a significant impact in preventing HIV and other blood borne infections in the drug using community at a very low cost.

NEED operates its exchange on a "distribution" rather than a "one for one" model. A recent study conducted by the Rand Corporation at various California syringe exchange programs concluded that the programs are most effective at reducing high risk behaviors, such as sharing syringes or cookers, when clients are given more syringes than they need. In other words, by encouraging clients to take extra syringes and to share them with people who do not access our services, we are seeing positive results in community health.

NEED's 1981 step van was bought approximately 10 years ago. While a majority of the main components, engine, transmission, etc. are still functional; the van still requires some significant overhaul in order to get it in proper working order.

A similar new step van would cost between \$40,000 - \$50,000. A new van would not have the shelving or the partitions required to store the necessary materials for syringe

distribution. All of the necessary repairs and routine maintenance on our current van will come to approximately \$8,000 to rehab the van. We need the following:

- 1) Tune up the engine and do any maintenance or repairs to the drive train;
- 2) Fix the engine cover so it can secure itself;
- 3) Repair the outside lighting system (headlights and taillights);
- 4) Install new lights on the side of the van for our night sites and make sure the interior lights and batteries are in proper working order;
- 5) Replace the solar panel that power the interior lights;
- 6) Replace the awning that is used to do distribution during rainy weather;
- 7) Repair the malfunctioning locks or get replacements from a dealer (the current driver side lock has difficulty locking and unlocking and the passenger side does not lock);
- 8) Establish a reserve fund of two to three thousand dollars to cover maintenance and repairs as needed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$8,000

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