



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

November 27, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Jane Micallef, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services

Subject: Revenue Grant: U.S. Food and Drug Administration for Improving Retail Food Program Standards

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a revenue grant award from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the total amount of \$2,500 in FY 2013 for improving retail food program standards and executing any resultant revenue agreements and amendments.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

One time grant funds of \$2,500 have been awarded to the Environmental Health Division for FY 2013 and are anticipated in subsequent years at the same funding level. This FDA Grant requires no local matching funds and will be used to support a student intern. This grant award will be included in the second Amendment to the Annual Appropriation Ordinance (AAO). Budget Code (Revenue): 421-4301-331.12-99. The contract has been entered into the City's Contract Database System and assigned CMS No. A6KLZ.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley Division of Environmental Health was awarded funds to explore the feasibility of phasing in a color-coded Placard Program to communicate the inspection results of restaurants to the community. The goal of the Placard Programs is to: a) reduce food borne illness; b) increase compliance with food safety laws; c) convey inspection results to the public using a system that is simple to understand. The grant funding will be used to hire a student intern to analyze data to determine the number of facilities involved in the various categories of a Placard Program and to develop a framework to implement such a Program.

BACKGROUND

As a local health jurisdiction, the City of Berkeley is mandated to permit and inspect all local food facilities such as restaurants, markets, schools, institutions and events to ensure food sold to the public is safe and meets minimum sanitation standards contained in the California Retail Food Code. The local retail food safety program is administered by the Division of Environmental Health and funded by permit fees paid by local food facilities and the General Fund.

On July 1, 2012, the County of Alameda implemented a Placard Program similar to one administered by Sacramento County for over five years. This program requires all food facilities, such as restaurants, to post a Green, Yellow or Red placard at the entrance of the establishment. The color of the placard provides the public with a visible summary of the most recent health inspection report.

This grant funding will enable the Division of Environmental Health to gather baseline data and explore the feasibility of a Placard Program to communicate retail food inspection results to the public.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

These new grant funds support increased information to the public about retail food facilities. Safe food and a sanitary environment in retail food facilities is an important element of a healthy community.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

If the award is not accepted, the City will not have the necessary resources to analyze retail food data necessary to develop the Placard Program.

CONTACT PERSON

Manuel M. Ramirez, Manager of Environmental Health, HH&CS (510) 981-5261

Attachment:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD AND A REVENUE  
AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, grant funds are allocated and available from the FDA for voluntary retail food regulatory program standards; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to protect the residents of Berkeley from possible food borne illness associated with retail food facilities, it is important to provide timely and uniform results of facility inspections to the public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Department of Health, Housing & Community Services is committed to public health disease prevention and control activities to ensure adherence to State and Federal standards; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley should seek and obtain external funding wherever possible to fund vital health protection services; and

WHEREAS, funds will be deposited in Budget Code (Revenue): 421-4301-331.12-99; and the contract has been entered into the City's Contract Database System and assigned CMS No. A6KLZ.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is hereby authorized to accept grant funds, and execute any resultant agreements or amendments thereto, in the amount of \$2,500 for FY 2013, for voluntary retail food regulatory program standards funding. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

