



Homeless Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 27, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Homeless Commission
 Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Chairperson, Homeless Commission
 Subject: Approval for Two Additional Homeless Commission Meetings in 2017

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving two additional meetings during 2017 to compensate for additional meetings that were necessary to complete the funding review process during which only agency proposals for funding were discussed.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The fiscal impact of adding a meeting would include the cost of renting meeting space at the North Berkeley Senior Center, an additional stipend payment of \$40 for one Commissioner, and the personnel costs associated with staffing the meeting.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

From January through March, 2017, the Homeless Commission met five times to develop recommendations regarding the 42 funding proposals submitted by community agencies. In order to allow time for thorough consideration of the proposals, two additional Commission meetings were necessary, one of which lasted five hours.

The Commission needs two additional meetings in 2017 so that it can continue to work on the other issues before it. On December 13, 2016 the Berkeley City Council adopted Resolution No. 67,771-N.S. that established a Commission Meeting Frequency Schedule which limits the Homeless Commission to a frequency of 10 meetings during 2017, but which includes a provision allowing Council to approve additional meetings if requested. On March 8, 2017, the Commission unanimously passed a motion to request approval from City Council to convene two additional meetings in 2017. (Action: M/S/C Lee/Feller to request authorization from City Council to meet 12 times during 2017 to make up for the additional meetings needed for the review of agency applications for funding. Vote: Ayes: Cohen, Feller, Kealoha-Blake, Lee, Marasovic, Orgain, Radu; Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None.)

BACKGROUND

The Homeless Commission meets ten times per year to conduct regular business with funding discussions once every two years. During the funding proposal review process, meetings have to be dedicated to discussion of those proposals. That does not allow

the Homeless Commission to conduct its other work during these meetings. Thus, in order to conduct its business, the Homeless Commission is requesting approval to convene two additional meetings during calendar year 2017.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental impacts or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Conducting funding discussions meant that other issues before the Homeless Commission could not be addressed during these meetings. Among the many issues on which the Commission is working include developing an improved grievance procedure over homeless service providers; input regarding the Pathways Project; input regarding the use of the property in the 1000 block of University, recently purchased by the City; securing feedback from clients regarding homeless services, literacy barriers among clients; coordinating with the newly hired Homeless Services Coordinator; collaborating with other commissions when there is an overlap on issues; and addressing housing challenges for all homeless persons including those who have Shelter Plus certificates.

Furthermore, the Council has been prolific lately in raising, and responding to, issues around homelessness. The Commission hopes that it will have an opportunity to weigh in on these issues as they come before Council.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Commission would not be able to address critical issues without additional meetings. Without these meetings, the Commission's work could not be completed. The only alternative action, not meeting more frequently, was not acceptable to any of the commissioners.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager concurs with the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Carole Marasovic, Chairperson, Homeless Commission
Peter Radu, Secretary, Homeless Commission, (510) 981-5435

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

APPROVAL FOR ONE ADDITIONAL HOMELESS COMMISSION MEETING IN
CALENDAR YEAR 2017

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2016 the Berkeley City Council adopted Resolution No. 67,771-N.S. that established a Commission Meeting Frequency Schedule which limited the Homeless Commission to a frequency of 10 meetings during calendar year 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Commission held two additional meetings exclusively to discuss and develop funding recommendations related to the community agency applications for funding to provide homeless services; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Commission needs to compensate for the loss of those two meetings by having two additional meetings in 2017 so that it can conduct its regular business; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2017, the Commission passed a motion unanimously to request Council approval to meet twelve times during calendar year 2017. (Action: M/S/C Lee/Feller to request authorization from City Council to meet 12 times during 2017 to make up for the additional meetings needed for the review of agency applications for funding. Ayes: Cohen, Feller, Kealoha-Blake, Lee, Marasovic, Orgain, Radu; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None.).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Berkeley authorize the Homeless Commission to convene two additional meetings during calendar year 2017.

