



Cheryl Davila
Councilmember
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 15, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Cheryl Davila, Kate Harrison, Ben Bartlett and Rashi Kesarwani

Subject: Referral to City Manager to Authorize Additional Inclement Weather Shelter at Old City Hall from October 15, 2019 - April 30, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize the City Manager to maintain open an as-needed inclement weather shelter from October 15, 2019 - April 30, 2020, to provide safe, indoor locations for our unhoused community during inclement weather, including cold temperatures below 45 degrees, rain, and add extreme heat and atmospheric pollution such as smoke.
2. Approving the allocation of \$140,000 in funding for this inclement weather shelter with funds from the budget appropriations for an expanded Emergency Shelter program or by State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding.
3. Authorizing the City Manager to amend Contract No. 10577B with Dorothy Day House for the current operation of the as-needed inclement weather shelter, that will include this extension through April 30, 2020, and possible program expansion in order to increase the number of unhoused people served.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The City Council on June 26, 2018, by adoption of the FY 2019 Mid-Biennial Budget Update approved \$400,000 General Funds for an expanded Emergency Shelter program. Funding for the additional inclement weather shelter will come from this budget allocation or from State Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding. The City of Berkeley is expected to receive over \$3 million in HEAP funding.

BACKGROUND

Dorothy Day House (DDH) has operated the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter (BESS) for fifteen years. Up until FY17, DDH operated BESS as an overnight shelter on a first-come, first-served basis for up to 45 nights for a maximum capacity of 65 people each night. The BESS would open if rain or temperatures at or below 45 degrees were expected overnight. For the past several years, DDH had operated the BESS at different faith based and City of Berkeley owned sites.

At its October 31, 2017, meeting the City Council extended resolutions passed on January 19, 2016 and November 15, 2016, declaring a homeless shelter crisis in Berkeley through January 19, 2020. The extension authorizes the City Manager to allow homeless people to occupy designated City facilities as shelters during the period of the crisis.

In recognition of the homeless shelter crisis, and the growing number of unhoused persons in the City of Berkeley, the City Council in November 2018 directed the City Manager to utilize unused Old City Hall for uses that included emergency shelter. City Council is allocating funds totaling \$60,000 for BESS at 2134 MLK, Old City Hall under license with DDH.

Currently, the City Manager has been authorized to operate a nightly Emergency Shelter, through December 31, 2019, direction is needed from Council regarding to open shelter services at Old City Hall through December 31, 2019. The City has not been able to identify other locations for an inclement weather shelter which operates only when weather conditions dictate.

The prior year's experience with the shelter was generally positive, with some issues involving objects left in the area surrounding Old City Hall. Over the course of the nine months during which it operated, the shelter housed 298 people on 62 inclement nights.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

CONTACT PERSON

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

FY19 EXPANDED EMERGENCY SHELTER: ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDING AND AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH DOROTHY DAY HOUSE FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER SHELTER OPERATIONS AT OLD CITY HALL

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is committed to providing a humane response to addressing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2018, City Council allocated \$400,000 to Expanded Emergency Shelter Program efforts in FY20, which included funding for Dorothy Day House and for other costs incurred by City staff; and

WHEREAS, \$140,000 in funds are needed to provide expanded inclement weather shelter through April 30, 2020 and will be requested to be brought into the budget in the second Appropriations Ordinance; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Council authorizes the City Manager or her designee to execute an amendment to Contract No. with Dorothy Day House to add \$140,000 to extend the operation of the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter (BESS) through April 30, 2020. A record copy of said agreement is on file with the City Clerk.

