



Office of the City Manager

February 26, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Ridley-Williams, Interim City Manager

Subject: Update on Storage Units -- Pilot Program for Homeless Community

The following is an update on our progress in implementing the storage program to support homeless individuals in Berkeley.

The plan is a pilot project that will be evaluated at six (6) months. The funding noted is for the entire year period. The plan is to re-open the lockers currently located behind the Veteran's Building and to add a structure in the same location to house an additional fifty (50) 64-gallon storage containers. The structures containing the lockers and storage containers would be locked and secured with staff providing clients with access to their belongings. We are continuing to assess additional sites to ensure we locate the program in the most appropriate place.

Staff will have a more consistent presence and greater control over this program than they had with the previous locker program. This should help reduce issues such as drugs and vermin that had marred past efforts.

As envisioned, the program would be available to clients seven (7) days a week from 7:00am – 10:00pm. For safety and program effectiveness there would be two (2) staff persons on site at all times. It is anticipated that staffing would be through a contract with a nonprofit agency as was the case with the locker program. For this effort the staff will only work on the storage program, whereas oversight of the locker program had been an additional responsibility added to staff's regular duties.

Projected costs for the program are as follows:

- **One-Time Funding needs: \$50,000** – Public Works construction of additional space to locate 64-gallon containers, bring the current lockers into operational capacity, and add security cameras and additional lighting.

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Re: Update on Storage Units -- Pilot Program for Homeless Community

- **Ongoing Program Needs: \$253,575 - \$347,760** – Staffing needs and operation/administration costs of program. These figures represent the costs of 5.25 FTE needed to staff the program with two (2) employees for the 105 hours the program would be open weekly. The range in cost is based on the classification of staff hired. The purpose of the locker program had been to get people into services and ultimately into housing. Therefore, case managers staffed that program at the higher salary level. It is anticipated that we would staff the program with Program Aides at the lower \$253,575 figure.

There are no identified programmatic dollars that could be used to fund this effort. General Funds would need to be used.

We will continue to update you as the details of implementation are finalized. A council agenda item will be submitted on March 26, 2016.

cc: Gil Dong, Interim Deputy City Manager
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Paul Buddenhagen, Director, Health, Housing, & Community Services Department
Phil Harrington, Director, Public Works Department