



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: August 18, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director:
Contact Info: Ryder Bailey, CPA, Chief Financial Officer (805) 568-3526
SUBJECT: **Project Roomkey COVID-19 Homeless Task Force Response – Request to Ratify Execution of Contract with Santa Barbara Hotel Group and a First Amendment of an Executed Professional Services Contract with PATH.**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Risk Management Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Approve and ratify the attached Emergency Occupancy Agreement (Attachment A) between the County and the Santa Barbara Hotel Group for use on a month-to-month basis of a hotel located in Southern Santa Barbara County as non-congregate sheltering in response to COVID-19; and
- b. Authorize the Director of Emergency Services, or designee, until otherwise ordered by the Board, to continue utilizing the Emergency Occupancy Agreement to provide non-congregate sheltering in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for payments due under Section 4, in an amount not to exceed \$900,000; and
- c. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the First Amendment to the PATH Agreement (Attachment B) increasing the PATH Agreement by \$74,000 to a not to exceed amount of \$111,000; and
- d. Ratify receipt of State Project Roomkey Funding from the California Department of Social Services in an amount of \$400,000 (Attachment D); and

- e. Determine that the recommended actions are not the acceptance and approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the project is a creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment; and that the actions are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Guidelines Section 15269(c) as they consist of specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (Attachment E) on that basis.

Summary Text:

On March 12, 2020, the Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency proclamation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Part of the Office of Emergency Management's response was to create the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Homeless Task Force Response Team to mitigate spread of COVID through vulnerable homeless populations. On April 20, 2020, the EOC Homeless Task Force Response Team opened a Non-Congregate Shelter (Project Roomkey) in the Southern portion of Santa Barbara County and contracted with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) to provide managerial administration support of the Non-Congregate Shelter site. These contracts were executed pursuant to the Director of Emergency Services' authority under County Code Chapter 12 and are presented here now for the Board's approval and ratification.

Background:

As the COVID-19 Emergency spread through Santa Barbara, there was a need to protect vulnerable unsheltered individuals. The EOC Homeless Task Force Response Team was created with the following objectives.

EOC Homeless Task Force Response Team's Objectives;

1. Prevent and mitigate COVID-19 impacts for persons who remain unsheltered through support centers and outreach re-establishing access to showers, device charging, food and hygiene supplies.
2. Establish non-congregate sheltering for persons at highest risk of COVID-19 complications.
3. Sustain shelter capacity for persons not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
4. Enhance homelessness prevention and housing activities through increased funding for rental assistance and supportive services.

Project Roomkey – On March 18, 2020, the Governor of California announced Project Roomkey, the goal of this effort is to provide non-congregated shelter options for people experiencing homelessness, to protect human life, and minimize strain on health care system capacity. This initiative targeted the most vulnerable unsheltered individuals, those over 65 years of age, with underlying medical conditions (respiratory, compromised immunities, chronic disease), those under 65 with underlying medical conditions, and those over the age of 65 with no underlying medical conditions. In addition to non-congregated sheltering, Project Roomkey provides “wrap around” services, such as case management, professional medical and mental health care, food, security, and cleaning, to ensure a safe and secure location.

Hotel Site Selection – The Emergency Operations Center, Logistics and Operations Teams, reached out to and visited many hotel sites throughout the County in order to secure a non-congregate shelter site for persons at high risk of COVID-19 complications to identify a Project Roomkey Site. After many

declines by area hotels, Operations staff visited the selected hotel site and in follow up conversations was able to engage site with Logistics to move forward with contracting. Considerations in the selection of the Hotel, was the ability to contract a significant block of rooms, ability to secure site, safety and fire review, accessibility of an elevator and proximity to targeted population and providers.

Managerial Administration of Non-Congregated Shelter (NCS) Site – PATH is being contracted to provide administration oversight at the Roomkey site. In alignment with the second objective of the EOC Homeless Task Force Response Team above, the County of Santa Barbara opened a 74 room Non-Congregate Shelter to house vulnerable homeless individuals without the ability to isolate, in a single room occupancy (SRO) setting. PATH is a non-profit with extensive experience operating shelter and providing services in the Santa Barbara area. Since its opening on April 20th, PATH has provided administration and operational support of the site.

Fiscal Analysis:

Costs associated with Project Roomkey will be funded through CARES Act funding encumbered for vulnerable and unsheltered individuals. Roomkey costs are eligible for FEMA reimbursement, under Category B - Emergency Protective Measures. Recommended Action d) ratifies \$400,000 in Project Roomkey funding from the California Department of Social Services for Project Roomkey eligible expenses.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Agreement with Santa Barbara Hotel Group
Attachment B: First Amendment to Executed Agreement with PATH
Attachment C: Original Executed Agreement with PATH
Attachment D: Project Roomkey Funding Approval Letter
Attachment E: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Special Instructions:

Not applicable