

DATE ISSUED: May 22, 2002

REPORT NO. 02-121

ATTENTION: Land Use and Housing Committee
Agenda of May 29, 2002

SUBJECT: 2002/2003 Winter Shelter and Neil Good Day Center Program Operators

SUMMARY

Issues -

1. Should the City Council accept the results of the competitive process for selecting operators for the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter and Neil Good Day Center programs?
2. Should the City Council direct the City Manager to enter into exclusive negotiations and contract with Alpha Project for the Homeless to operate both the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program for single adults and the Neil Good Day Center?
3. Should the City Council direct the City Manager to enter into exclusive negotiations and contract with Vietnam Veterans of San Diego to operate the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program for veterans?

Manager's Recommendation(s) -

1. Accept the results of the competitive process for selecting operators for the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter and Neil Good Day Center Programs.
2. Direct the City Manager to enter into exclusive negotiations and contract with Alpha Project for the Homeless to operate both the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program for single adults and the Neil Good Day Center.

3. Direct the City Manager to enter into exclusive negotiations and contract with Vietnam Veterans of San Diego to operate the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program for veterans.

Other Recommendation(s) – None

Fiscal Impact

The total projected annual cost is \$674,840. The programmatic breakdown is as follows: Single Adult Shelter - \$182,000 Veterans Shelter - \$145,000 and the Neil Good Day Center - \$347,840. Funding sources include Emergency Shelter Grant - \$574,000, Housing Commission - \$48,087, Community Development Block Grant - \$18,473, General Fund - \$9,280 and the County of San Diego - \$25,000. The City has also applied for a \$100,000 grant from the State of California, Housing and Community Development, Emergency Assistance Program for the operation of the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program. Should this grant be funded, \$100,000 in Emergency Shelter Grant funds will be transferred to the Cortez Hill Family Program.

BACKGROUND

City Council policy 000-51, Comprehensive Homeless Policy, adopted June 12, 1995, serves as the current source document in addressing homelessness issues. Said policy supports the development of an emergency shelter and recommends the Continuum of Care approach whereby, the City, in coordination with businesses, social service agencies, community groups, and other jurisdictions, assess needs and promote programs which restore people who are homeless to their optimum participation in the community. The policy further requires the City Manager to provide annual recommendations for the operation of a dispersed site, flexible homeless shelter program.

For the past fifteen years, the City has managed a temperature/weather driven shelter program and/or seasonal shelter program. In time, and with experience, the program evolved into the successful model utilized in the 2001/02 season. The program operated a 250-bed shelter for single adults and a 150-bed shelter for male veterans from December 14, 2001 through March 14, 2002. The Neil Good Day Center has been in operation since 1991. The program provides emergency and basic day services to homeless individuals in the downtown San Diego area.

On November 21, 2001, the City Council directed the City Manager to competitively bid the services provided through the Winter Shelter Program for the 2002/2003 season. In order to ensure equitable programmatic treatment, the Neil Good Day Center, a homeless services program fully funded by the City was also competed prior to the scheduled contract renewal date for fiscal year 2003. Requests for Proposals (RFP) for both programs were appropriately advertised and issued March 29, 2002 with a due date of April 26, 2002. In a change from previous years, the Winter Shelter Program has been split into two program contracts -- one for

the operation of a 200-bed, single adult shelter and the other for the operation of a 150-bed, veterans shelter.

DISCUSSION

A total of three responses were received which were reviewed for eligibility purposes. All responses met the minimum standards set forth in the RFP and were selected for further review. A Proposal Review Panel consisting of representatives from City Homeless Services, Housing Commission and the San Diego Downtown Partnership, the East Village Association and the Midway Planning Committee was convened to review the proposals and make recommendations to the City Manager.

The panel recommends that the City contract with Alpha Project for the Homeless to operate the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program for single adults and the Neil Good Day Center. The panel also recommends that the City contract with Vietnam Veterans of San Diego to operate the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter Program. City staff concurs with these recommendations.

Community members on the Proposal Review Panel voiced concerns regarding the impact to the surrounding communities each year at the time of the Winter Shelter Program closure. They report that each year for a period of a few weeks after the shelters close, larger than usual numbers of homeless people congregate in the neighborhoods in the vicinity of the shelter site. They have requested that the City consider a gradual or step-down shelter closure process. This plan would entail discharging 1/3 of the shelter population on March 15th and an additional 1/3 on March 22nd and the remaining 1/3 on March 29th. It is estimated that implementation of this plan would cost an additional \$20,000. Staff recommends that this approach be further studied to determine its feasibility and if necessary potential funding sources. The results would be reported to the Land Use and Housing Committee prior to the opening of the 2002/2003 Winter Shelter.

ALTERNATIVE (S) - None

Respectfully submitted by,

Ronald G. Thurlow
Administrator
Homeless Services Program

Concur: Debra Fischle-Faulk
Deputy Director
Community Services

Approved: Bruce Herring
Deputy City Manager

Concur: Hank Cunningham
Director, Community and
Economic Development

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ATTACHMENTS: [1\) List of Members -- Proposal Review Panel](#)