



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

December 18, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director

Subject: **Amend the Contract with Volunteers of America Los Angeles for an Amount Not to Exceed \$63,000 to Extend Operation of the Transitional Storage Center through June 30, 2018.**

OVERVIEW:

Recommendation – That the City Council:

1. Approve an amendment to the contract with Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA) for an amount not to exceed \$63,000 for the continued operation of the Transitional Storage Center (TSC) through June 30, 2018; and,
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all documents and subsequent amendments related with this action, subject to review by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact – On June 5, 2017, Council approved a budget appropriation of \$126,000 in Acct# 131-6201-52285-00000 to operate the TSC through June 30, 2018. The continued operation of the TSC in the amount of \$63,000 will be paid from this budget.

Previous Council Actions – On November 21, 2016, City Council approved award of a sole source contract to VOALA to operate the Transitional Storage Center through June 30, 2017. On June 5, 2017, City Council approved a resolution appropriating \$126,000 in Low Moderate Income funds for the continued operation of the Transitional Storage Center from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 and amended the contract with VOALA for an amount not to exceed \$63,000 to extend the operation of the Transitional Storage Center to December 31, 2017.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

According to the terms of the settlement agreement to close the case of Allen v. Pomona, the City of Pomona agreed to build and operate a Transitional Storage Center (TSC) for a 3-year period to provide storage space for homeless persons to place their personal belongings. The number of lockers must accommodate at minimum, the number of homeless person found to be unsheltered at the annual Point-in-Time homeless count. It was also agreed that such a program would be operated in collaboration with ancillary services to the homeless.

BACKGROUND

On August 19, 2016, a settlement agreement and stipulated order to close the Allen v. Pomona case was signed. Included in the order were actions on the part of the City which require the operation of a "Transitional Storage Center" (TSC) for a 3-year period. Per the agreement, the TSC should consist of a sufficient amount of lockers to meet the number of unsheltered homeless individuals in Pomona per the Los Angeles County Point in Time Count. The lockers are made available to homeless individuals to store their belongings and are offered in coordination with core services. Since the signing of the settlement agreement, the City Council has approved funding for the operation of the TSC annually through June 30, 2018.

On November 21, 2016 City Council awarded a contract to VOALA to operate the TSC. On June 5, 2017, City Council approved a resolution appropriating \$126,000 in Low Moderate Income funds for the continued operation of the Transitional Storage Center from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 and amended the contract with VOALA for \$63,000 to extend the operation of the Transitional Storage Center to December 31, 2017.

DISCUSSION

The TSC is a designated area, currently located within the courtyard of the Park Avenue Armory, currently consisting of 388 lockers that homeless individuals can access to store up to 60 gallons of their belongings. Operated in coordination with services provided within the Armory courtyard area, the TSC not only provides a place for personal possessions of the homeless to be safely stored, but also provides a means to engage the locker users in availing themselves of the processes to obtain permanent housing and needed services. Besides the locker containers, the following accommodations can be found within the TSC Courtyard area: security and administrative staff; sanitation services, such as mobile bathrooms, a hand washing station and trash bins; and a tent covered area that provides seating and tables. In addition, local service partners and community members provide social services, food, activities and supplies on site. The TSC Courtyard is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The TSC Courtyard is co-located with the Pomona Armory building which is currently host to the Winter Shelter program. Open nightly from December 1st through March 31st, shelter services are available for up to 104 homeless persons, seven days a week from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m. Because VOALA has been retained by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to operate the emergency shelter within the Pomona Armory, staff is recommending that the City amend the current agreement with VOALA to extend their oversight of the TSC through June 30, 2018. The amendment would include an award of up to \$63,000 for site operation through June 30, 2018. By doing this, the City secures 24-hour oversight of the TSC site, with one provider managing and securing the entire Pomona Armory site.

It is anticipated that by June 30, 2018, the TSC will be moved to a new site located at 1400 E. Mission. This site has been purchased by the City for development of a Centralized Service Center (CSC) and Year-Round Emergency Shelter. Once moved, TSC operation will be incorporated into the overall contracted operation of the CSC and the number of lockers will be increased from 388 to

390 to accommodate the 2017 Point in Time unsheltered homeless count. On July 17, 2017, City Council approved an award of contract to VOALA as the selected operator of the Centralized Service Center and therefore the Transitional Storage Center.

Transitional Storage Center Operation Update

As of this report, the TSC has provided locker space to 560 unduplicated homeless persons, utilizing 560 lockers. Currently, 205 lockers are actively being used; 388 have been abandoned, with the contents of the units being placed in the City's 90-day storage facility; and, 180 have had their contents removed by their owner for a variety of reasons including the person: leaving Pomona; enrolling in a treatment program; reuniting with family, moving into permanent or other housing opportunities; or no longer needing the locker space for other reasons. In keeping with the settlement agreement, three formerly homeless persons have been hired by VOALA to help operate the TSC.