



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: JULY 28, 2015

FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH FOR CRISIS OR TRIAGE MENTAL HEALTH AND HOMELESS OUTREACH SERVICES - \$72,000

ISSUE:

The issue for City Council consideration is whether to approve a Cooperative Agreement with the County of Riverside Department of Mental Health for Crisis or Triage Mental Health and Homeless Outreach Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Approve the Cooperative Agreement with the County of Riverside Department of Mental Health for Crisis or Triage Mental Health and Homeless Outreach Services (Attachment 1); and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the Agreement, including making minor, non-substantive changes, and to sign all documents necessary for the Riverside County Department of Mental Health to fill the positions of one Clinical Therapist and one Behavioral Health Specialist II and to expend up to \$72,000 to fund the Behavioral Health Specialist II position.

BACKGROUND:

On October 28, 2014, the City Manager's Office provided a six-month update on the Community Livability Task Force Action Plan that was created to address the increase in criminal and nuisance activities that impact the City's quality of life. To complement the work being accomplished through the Community Livability Program by the Riverside Police Department and the Homeless Outreach Team, staff requested funding for a Mental Health Worker to partner with the Homeless Outreach Team. The City Council approved staff's recommendation to fund one Mental Health Worker position for FY 2014/15 (\$37,864) and FY 2015/16 (\$34,136).

In addition to the City's efforts, a partnership with the County of Riverside Department of Mental Health is necessary to recruit one Behavioral Health Specialist II (this is the same position that

City Council previously approved as a Mental Health Worker) and one Clinical Therapist to accomplish the following goals:

- (1) Provide alternatives to those at risk of injury or death without appropriate mental health or substance use crisis or triage services provided directly in the community in collaboration with local law enforcement.
- (2) Reduce jail incarcerations and involuntary mental health treatment or hospitalizations for individuals whose behavior is influenced by a mental health disorder or crisis and who are the subject of 9-1-1 calls.
- (3) Attempt to divert individuals with behavioral health (mental health or substance use) problems into appropriate community services and supports.
- (4) Engage hard to reach homeless who suffer from a serious mental illness or substance use disorder and link them to all available Riverside County Department of Mental Health (RCDMH) and community resources in a coordinated and effective manner.

As identified in the attached Cooperative Agreement, RCDMH is providing one full time Clinical Therapist to work with the Riverside Police Department and one full time Behavioral Health Specialist II to work with the Riverside Community & Economic Development Department. RCDMH will fund the Clinical Therapist position being assigned to the Riverside Police Department and the Riverside Community & Economic Development Department will fund the Behavioral Health Specialist II position to work with the Homeless Outreach Team. The cost to the City to fund one Behavior Health Specialist II is \$72,000 per year. The Cooperative Agreement shall be renewed on an annual basis if the City can fund the Behavioral Health Specialist II position for the following program year and the County can fund the Clinical Therapist position for the following program year.

The Riverside Chief of Police concurs with the recommendations in this report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The \$72,000 cost to fund the Behavioral Health Specialist II position is available in the Community Livability – Community & Economic Development Department Account No. 7328000-421000.

Prepared by:	Emilio Ramirez, Interim Community & Economic Development Director
Certified as to availability of funds:	Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by:	Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Agreement with the Riverside County Department of Mental Health