



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Customer Relations/Finance Committee

CUSTOMER RELATIONS/FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: June 8, 2018

ITEM NO: 2

SUBJECT: CONTINUED TO CUSTOMER RELATIONS/FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM APRIL 23, 2018 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MEETING - CITY OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS AND EFFICIENCIES

ISSUE:

Staff to provide a briefing to the Committee regarding (1) services, efficiencies and cost-savings associated with the proposed transfer of City of Riverside Public Utilities Department positions to the City's Human Resources and City Manager's Office – Office of Communications and (2) the proposed savings from the removal of five full-time positions from the Public Utilities Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Customer Relations/Finance Committee receive the briefing and recommend to the Board of Public Utilities to receive and file the report on operational improvements and efficiencies of the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department.

BACKGROUND:

On April 23, 2018, the Board of Public Utilities received a report on the operational improvements and efficiencies that the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department (RPU) has evaluated over the last twelve months and were incorporated into the proposed two-year budget for FY 2018-2020. The Board asked many questions and expressed the importance of maintaining focus on the Utility 2.0 Strategic Plan approved by the Board and City Council in conjunction with any changes in the staffing proposals.

After discussion, the Board referred this item to the Customer Relations/Finance Committee for the review of the removal of five positions (Deputy General Manager, two Assistant General Managers, Principal Management Analyst and Customer Communication Specialist) and the transfer and funding of four full-time RPU Workforce Development positions to the Human Resources Department and six full-time marketing /communication positions to the City Manager's Office – Office of Communications. The Board requested that staff from the Human Resources and City Manager's Office – Office of Communications brief the Customer Relations/Finance Committee as to the services that will be provided to RPU while still maintaining and supporting the goals and objectives of Utility 2.0.

DISCUSSION:

Since the Board Meeting on April 23, 2018, staff from RPU, the City Manager's Office – Office of Communications and the Human Resources Department have answered specific questions and concerns addressed by the Board and City Council on the operating efficiencies and savings proposed. Staff will provide an overview of the proposed transfers/funding of RPU staff and removal of positions resulting in \$1,267,000 in annual savings to the Board of Public Utilities Customer Relations/Finance Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact with the receipt of this report. Savings from the personnel efficiencies outlined will save RPU \$1.25 million per year. These savings are incorporated into the rate proposals and proposed Fiscal Year 2018-2020 Budget submissions to City Council. The Riverside Public Utilities FY 2018-2020 Budget was presented on May 15, 2018 to the City Council. The Council was notified that this item approved the Budget with the exception of the items noted above pending consideration of the Customer Relations/Finance Committee. Should any costs be recommended to be added back, alternative reductions will be needed.

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Approved by: Marianna Marysheva, Assistant City Manager
Approved by: Al Zelinka, City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Certifies
availability of funds: Laura M. Nomura, Utilities Assistant General Manager/Finance & Administration

- Attachments:
1. 4-23-18 Board Report
 2. 4-23-18 RPU Minutes
 3. Presentation