

Agenda Report

June 12, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Public Health Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND CONTRACT NO. 32390 WITH RICKY PICKENS FOR GANG VIOLENCE OUTREACH AND INTERRUPTION SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 21065 of CEQA and Sections 15060 (c)(2), 15060 (c)(3), and 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines and, as such, no environmental document pursuant to CEQA is required for the project; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to transfer funds from Purchase Order No. 1231437 and amend Contract No. 32390 with Ricky Pickens Jr. to increase the not-to-exceed amounts by \$42,250 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 and by \$60,000 for FY 2024 and FY 2025 to continue gang violence outreach and interruption services; and
3. To the extent the amendment to Contract No. 32390 could be considered a separate procurement subject to the Competitive Selection Process, grant the contracts an exemption pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code (PMC) Section 4.08.049(B), contracts for which the City's best interests are served. This transaction is exempt from competitive bidding per PMC Section 4.08.030 and City Charter Section 1002(F) based on contracts for professional or unique services.

BACKGROUND:

On June 1, 2022, staff prepared and posted a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for "Gang Violence Outreach and Interruption Services." The RFP was posted on Planet Bids, 3,068 vendors were notified of the RFP opportunity and 37 vendors downloaded information about the opportunity. The city received a total of 5 proposals and a panel of City staff from Finance; Parks, Recreation & Community Services; Public Health; and

Police reviewed and scored each proposal. The proposal submitted by Ricky Pickens and his team was the highest rated.

On August 15, 2022, the City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with Ricky Pickens and approved two purchase orders to implement the work of a four-member gang interventionist team to provide gang outreach and violence interruption services. The contract issued to Mr. Pickens was for two years with the option of an additional one-year extension at the sole discretion of the City Manager. The scope of work for the contract included oversight of the gang interventionist team and the cost of service for Mr. Pickens and one directly hired gang interventionist. Purchase orders were issued to two additional individuals to serve on the gang interventionist team, each in the amount of \$60,000 for two years with the option of an additional one-year extension. The contract was originally administered by the Office of the City Manager and has since been transferred to the Public Health Department.

Between 2019 and 2021, the Pasadena community experienced a rise in gang violence leading to a 125% increase in confirmed shootings. In response to this crisis, the City initially contracted with Ricky Pickens to provide gang outreach and violence interruption services in January 2021. At that time, Mr. Pickens and his team began providing mediation, conflict resolution, and negotiated stand down agreements to reduce the incidence of violence. In Calendar Year 2021, Pasadena Police Department data indicate there were 31 gang-related or possibly gang-related shootings. In Calendar Year 2022, there were 18 gang-related or possibly gang-related shootings showing a 58% decrease from the prior year.

In January 2023, one of the purchase orders was closed and a new member of the team was directly hired by Ricky Pickens. Prior to the transition, \$13,750 of the purchase order was expended. The Pasadena Public Health Department ("Department") recommends transferring the remaining value of \$42,250 in FY 2023 and \$60,000 in FY 2024 and FY 2025 to contract number 32390. In addition, the Department recommends removing any existing annual limits on payments to provide flexibility to pay on the contract as the work requires, up to the total approved value of the agreement. The proposed amendment will expand the scope of Mr. Pickens' contract to include directly hiring a second gang interventionist. The engagement will not exceed the grand total amount of \$288,000 for all related services previously approved by City Council over the three year period.

The work of the Gang Outreach and Violence Interruption Services ("GOVIS") Team aligns with the Department's broader violence prevention efforts. The Board of State and Community Corrections ("BSCC") awarded the Department \$2,510,394 through the CalVIP Grant in August 2022. The GOVIS Team will help the Department satisfy the 100% match required by the grant. The team provides monthly data to the Department, which is summarized in quarterly reports presented to the Public Safety Committee. GOVIS provides important services to the Department's CalVIP grant program and the city overall. Without the services provided through the GOVIS program, the Department would not be able to meet its grant match requirement and program objectives.

Therefore, it is in the City's best interest to continue these services to prevent program service disruption.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed contract amendment aligns with the City Council's strategic plan goal to ensure public safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") in accordance with Section 21065 of CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 (c)(3) and 15378(b). CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c)(3) excludes from environmental review those activities that are not a "project" as defined in Section 15378. Section 15378(b) excludes from the definition of "project" governmental funding activities which do not involve a commitment to a project which may result in a potentially significant environmental effect. The proposed action consists of a contract and appropriation of funds for gang prevention efforts. No direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment would result.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient appropriations are currently available in the Office of the City Manager Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget. There are no anticipated impacts to other programs or to the General Fund as a result of this action.

Respectfully submitted,



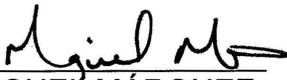
MANUEL CARMONA, MPA
Acting Director
Public Health Department

Prepared by:



Whitney Harrison, MPA
Division Manager, Social & Mental Health
Services

Approved by:



MIGUEL MÁRQUEZ
City Manager