



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: JUNE 22, 2021

DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FROM: MEGAN HUNTER, DIRECTOR

BY: ROD POWELL, PLANNING MANAGER

TITLE: FY 2021-2022 AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES WITH DOWNTOWN STREETS, INC. NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a resolution for a Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2021 Agreement for Services (Agreement) with Downtown Streets Inc. (DSI) not to exceed \$250,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Community Development Department recommends that City Council approve a FY 2021-2022 Agreement with DSI not to exceed \$250,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

DSI is focused on ending homelessness by restoring dignity and rebuilding the lives of unhoused men and women. DSI's Salinas Downtown Streets Team Program (SDST) activates cleanup crews targeted in Chinatown and Downtown along with other select areas as needed throughout the City of Salinas (City). DSI staff recruits SDST Program team members who receive services and a basic needs stipend for their participation. SDST Program team members are provided with case management services related to goal setting including housing stability. SDST Program team members also receive employment services to graduate into regular employment. DSI will be able to maintain at least fifteen (15) SDST Program team members experiencing or at risk of homelessness from funding received by this FY 2021-2022 Agreement. Through the proposed Agreement the City will contribute \$250,000 from FY 2021-2022 General Fund Capital Improvement Program 9181 funds towards the operations of the SDST program.

BACKGROUND:

DSI has been named as one of only five evidence-based best practices by the League of California Cities and the State Association of Counties' Homelessness Task Force. The DSI model such as the SDST Program provides individualized paths out of homelessness, environmental benefits, community beautification and visual response to homelessness. With growing costs related to homeless encampment cleanups, there has been heightened interest in developing more sustainable

solutions to remove trash and debris. DSI offers a viable solution by providing more than just a clean-up program but offering outreach and case management to homeless individuals while preventing future waste streams.

DSI currently operates programs such as the SDST Program in sixteen (16) Bay Area project areas, spanning seven (7) counties as well as the City of Salinas. DSI began operating in the City in FY 2019-2020 and has had tremendous success to-date operating the SDST Program. This Agreement seeks to fund a second Team that will focus expanded efforts on Cesar Chavez Park and Natividad Creek Park.

DISCUSSION:

It is anticipated that DSI will continue to achieve successful outcomes through the SDST Program in FY 2021-2022 related to housing, employment and self-sufficiency in the City. The table below outlines DSI's proposed activities and goals for FY 2021-2022 for the SDST Program.

FY 2020-2021 Salinas Downtown Streets Team Program Proposed Activities & Goals		
Activity #	Description	Goal
1	Unduplicated Individuals Served	50
2	Graduating Team Members into Employment	5
3	Placing Participants into Housing	5
4	Debris Removal	29 Cubic Yards

DSI has established a local office in the heart of Downtown, located at 140 Central Ave. This facility provides open office hours every Tuesday to SDST participants, as demand for services (case management, employment assistance, referrals, etc.) continues to increase among individuals on their waitlist. Since FY 2019-2020, DSI has engaged and built relationships with various City Departments and Divisions (i.e. Police, Housing, Public Works, Code Enforcement etc.), service providers, businesses, and community stakeholders throughout Chinatown, Downtown and other areas in the City. DSI also works collaboratively with the Salinas City Center Improvement Association (SCCIA).

The table below outlines the proposed FY 2021-2022 City funding to DSI for the SDST Program.

FY 2020-2021 Salinas Downtown Streets Team Program Proposed City Funding		
Funding Source	Funding Type	Dollar Amount
City	CIP 9181 (Measure G)	\$250,000
City	HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Phase 3 COVID-19 (CV)	\$238,000
Total		\$488,000

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Guidelines Section 15378. CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This agenda item is in alignment with the following City Council strategic goals:

- Investment Strategy/Risk Management
- Public Safety

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The Housing Division of Community Development Department has coordinated with the City Manager's Office, Finance Department, and Legal.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The proposed Agreement will include \$250,000 of FY 2021-2022 CIP 9181 – Downtown Streets Team (General Fund) funds. An additional \$238,000 in HUD Phase 3 CDBG-CV funding previously approved by Council on January 19, 2021 will also be leveraged under a separate funding agreement.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution
- B. Agreement for Services