


Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
December 16, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council  
From:  Phil Kamlarz, Acting City Manager  
Subject: Emergency Storm Shelter

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution: 1) creating the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter (BESS) Project and 2) authorizing an amendment of the existing contract (Contract Number 6062) with Dorothy Day House, to include the BESS Project in its scope of work and increasing the contract amount by \$23,725 for a total amount not to exceed \$54,613 for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. (One-time funding available within Fiscal Year 2003 General Fund carryover savings.)

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The recommended action will require an additional one-time expenditure of General Fund in the amount of \$23,725. Funding is available from Fiscal Year 2003 carryover savings for one-time support.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley provides funding for 50 beds at the County-wide Oakland Army Base Winter Shelter, a winter shelter motel voucher program, and a youth winter shelter program (Council Resolution No. 62-239 – N.S.). These resources, however, coupled with the existing year-round shelter beds through BOSS and the Berkeley Food and Housing Project, cannot accommodate all of those who are vulnerable on particularly stormy nights, sleeping on the streets and in parks in Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

Dorothy Day House (DDH), which provides a free breakfast at Trinity Methodist Church six days per week, and Night on the Streets (NOTS) Catholic Worker, which provides street outreach to the homeless three nights per week, have developed the Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter Project (BESS) which would provide shelter space for a maximum of 25 beds on particularly stormy nights in Berkeley churches for a maximum of 20 nights between late December 2003 and the end of March 2004. St. Mark's Church has already agreed to house the project and additional churches are being approached as alternates. BESS would operate during the worst of inclement weather and would rotate between participating Berkeley churches. Outreach would take place through announcements at the Trinity Breakfast, through Night on the Streets, or through contact with other Berkeley agencies that serve the homeless, and would be targeted towards people who are too mentally compromised, fearful or solitary to be able to get

to the Oakland Army Base Winter Shelter or into one of the two gender segregated shelters in Berkeley.

Two paid Coordinators and additional volunteers would staff the shelter throughout the night. Intakes would start at 4 p.m. and from that point at least one BESS Coordinator would be on-site and equipped with a mobile phone, first-aid kit, and knowledge about appropriate emergency services, until approximately 7:30 p.m. at the latest. After that, both BESS Coordinators at a minimum would be on-site until morning. DDH and NOTS Catholic Worker intent to recruit, train, and retain suitable, motivated volunteers to assist with the project. Cots, bedding and janitorial supplies would be funded through this project. After BESS guests depart, bedding will be removed, and cleaned, and a janitor would clean the sleeping space.

The Homeless Commission supports this project and encourages Council to fund it.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Dorothy Day House and Catholic Worker have experience with and are known to the individuals who might take advantage of this service. Being a volunteer-based operations they are better suited to provide this sporadic service efficiently.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

City of Berkeley Housing Department staff contacted other homeless service providers who are unable to take on the project at this time.

CONTACT PERSON

Oscar Sung, Housing Department: 981-5410  
Kristen Lee, Housing Department: 981-5427

Approved:

  
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Stephen Barton, Director, Housing Department

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

CREATING THE BERKELEY EMERGENCY STORM SHELTER (BESS) PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT OF THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH DOROTHY DAY HOUSE TO INCLUDE THE BESS PROJECT IN ITS SCOPE OF WORK INCREASING THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$23,725, FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$54,613 FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2003 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2005

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2003 by Resolution No. 62,124 - N.S., the City Council authorized contract 6062 with Dorothy Day House to provide a free breakfast six days per week at Trinity Methodist Church, in an amount not to exceed \$30,888 for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the operation of an Emergency Storm Shelter, a shelter with a maximum of 25 beds for a maximum of 20 nights would rotate between Berkeley churches, in an amount not to exceed \$23,725, is to be performed by Dorothy Day House to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Day House and Catholic Worker have experience with and are known to the individuals who might take advantage of this shelter service and being a volunteer-based operations they are better suited to provide this sporadic shelter service efficiently; and

WHEREAS, one-time only funds are available within current Fiscal Year 2003 General Fund carryover savings.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute an amendment to the contract with Dorothy Day House for the Emergency Storm Shelter Project to increase the amount by \$23,725, for a total amount not to exceed \$54,613 for the period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. A record signature copy of said contract to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.