



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 23, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Renelda Mary, Interim Director, Housing Department

Subject: Winter Homeless Shelter Programs

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager: 1) to increase the allocation for operating costs for Winter Shelter Program by \$10,000; and 2) to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Oakland, Department of Human Services, in an amount not to exceed \$66,000 for operation of the Winter Shelter Program at the Oakland Army Base.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The current adopted FY 2008 budget for the Winter Homeless Shelter Programs includes \$107,091 for the Winter Shelter Program, and \$40,127 for the Winter Voucher Program for a combined total of \$147,218. Of this amount, \$56,000 was previously authorized by Council in Resolution No. 63,751–N.S. for payment to the City of Oakland for the Winter Shelter Program. Due to increased costs, the City of Berkeley contribution needs to be increased by \$10,000 (to an amount not to exceed \$66,000), which represents the City of Berkeley's share of the overall increase in operating costs for the shelter facility. To fund this additional cost, staff is proposing to reprogram general fund monies that remain unspent by community agencies at the end of FY 2007, budgeted in account 010-9703-410-3510. With this additional allocation, the total FY 2008 budget for the Winter Homeless Shelter Programs will increase from \$147,218 to \$157,128. The cost breakdown for the budget of \$147,218 for the programs is as follows:

*Expenditures already authorized for Winter Shelter Programs for FY2008:*

- **\$56,000: City of Oakland** - City of Berkeley's pro-rata share of the operating costs associated with the Winter Shelter Program (authorized by Council per Resolution No. 63,751–N.S.).
- **\$6,091: Berkeley Food and Housing Project** - Administrative costs associated with coordination of referrals to the Winter Shelter Program (authorized by Council per Resolution No. 63,751–N.S.).
- **\$45,000:** Daily transportation via BART for shelter residents to get to and from the shelter site in West Oakland.

- **\$34,888: Emergency Housing Vouchers** – Housing vouchers for homeless families and individuals with disabilities who are unable to access one of the regular emergency shelters.
- **\$5,239: Women’s Daytime Drop-In Center** - Administrative costs associated with coordination of referrals for the Winter Voucher Program (authorized by Council per Resolution No. 63,751-N.S.).

*Additional expenditure needing authorization for FY2008:*

- **\$10,000: City of Oakland** - an increase in the FY2008 General Fund allocation to cover the City of Berkeley’s share of the increased costs for operating the shelter program, which includes the utility costs for the facility. This allocation is included in the first amendment to the Annual Appropriations Ordinance scheduled for the October 23, 2008 Council agenda.

### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In 2003, Alameda County Continuum of Care Council conducted a count and survey of homeless people in Alameda County. According to the analysis of the extensive data collected through the Alameda Countywide Shelter and Services Survey, approximately 835 people are homeless in the City of Berkeley on any given night, including 785 adults and 50 children.

Currently the City has 150 shelter beds available at four emergency shelters that operate throughout the year. The demand for these beds consistently exceeds the actual number of beds available. The Winter Shelter and Winter Voucher Programs fill a critical gap in emergency housing, and provide shelter for many of the most fragile among the local homeless population when the need for shelter from inclement weather is most urgent.

### BACKGROUND

The City’s response to the need for additional homeless shelter during the winter months includes two key program components: 1) the Winter Voucher program provides emergency housing vouchers to families and disabled individuals who are homeless in Berkeley and unable to access one of the regular emergency shelters; and 2) the Winter Shelter Program located at the Oakland Army Base, which the City operates in conjunction with the City of Oakland and the County of Alameda.

The first component, the Winter Voucher Program, is designed to provide emergency housing during the winter months at Berkeley area motels and the Berkeley YMCA for homeless families and disabled individuals with medically fragile conditions. The Women’s Daytime Drop-In Center (WDDC) provides screening and placement of eligible individuals and families into this emergency housing for up to a two-week period. The overall operating budget for the Winter Voucher Program is \$40,127, consisting of \$34,888 for emergency motel vouchers and \$5,239 for WDDC to coordinate referrals for the program.

The second component, the Winter Shelter Program, involves operating a 100-bed emergency winter shelter at a large facility at the former Oakland Army Base, from approximately November 15, 2007 through April 15, 2008. This program is a collaborative effort among the City of Berkeley, the City of Oakland, and Alameda County, along with Berkeley and Oakland service providers. The shelter is designed to serve single men and women. Out of the 100 beds in the shelter, 50 are designated for homeless people from Berkeley who are referred by designated homeless service agencies. The Berkeley Food and Housing Project is the lead agency for coordinating the referrals from these agencies in order to fill the 50 beds on a nightly basis.

The overall operating budget for the Winter Shelter Program at the Oakland Army Base is approximately \$400,000. Berkeley's contribution to this program totals \$117,091, or approximately 29% of the program's overall operating budget. The remainder of the operating budget is funded by Alameda County, the City of Oakland and the State of California. The City of Oakland is the fiscal agent for the project, and contracts with a non-profit agency to staff and operate the shelter. Historically, the City of Berkeley has contributed \$56,000 each year to the City of Oakland towards the costs of operating the shelter, and provided an additional \$45,000 to provide daily transportation via BART to the site of the shelter. In FY 07, additional costs were incurred as a result of moving the shelter to a different facility; consequently, the City of Berkeley increased the contribution to the City of Oakland by \$15,000, for a total amount of \$71,000, to pay for repairs that were necessary to make the new facility habitable as a shelter. This year, the City of Oakland has requested an increase of \$10,000, for a total of \$66,000, in order to cover the increased utility expenses at the site, which are estimated to cost approximately \$12,000 per month.

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

By significantly expanding capacity for emergency shelter and services through the Winter Voucher Program and the Winter Shelter Programs, the City provides a humane response to the needs of the most vulnerable of the homeless population during the harsh winter months. In addition, the collaborative provision of shelter at the Oakland Army Base is consistent with the City's efforts to regionalize its approach to homelessness. Through this type of partnership, services can be more cost-effective and provided to a larger number of homeless individuals.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions are being considered at this time.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Andrew Wicker, Community Services Specialist, Housing, 981-5418

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF OAKLAND FOR THE  
WINTER HOMELESS SHELTER PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is committed to a regional approach to addressing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has implemented a seasonal winter shelter program in collaboration with the City of Oakland and Alameda County, in addition to a winter voucher program, consistent with the City-adopted Continuum of Care Plan; and

WHEREAS, funds for these programs are in the City's FY 2008 adopted budget in budget codes 010-7906-463-4064, 010-7906-463-5010, and 010-9703-410-3510.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley hereby authorizes the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Oakland in an amount not to exceed \$66,000 for the Winter Shelter Program at the former Oakland Army Base, which represents an increase of \$10,000 above the amount previously authorized by Council (Resolution No. 63,751-N.S.).