



Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement Number F002014 with Legal Aid of Sonoma County

City Council Meeting
August 17, 2021

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Housing & Community Services

Background

- On February 28, 2017, the Council, by motion, approved \$20,000 in one-time funding to Legal Aid to provide renter advocacy and legal representation services, requested Legal Aid report back on how the funds were spent and the outcomes, and requested staff seek proposals for Renter/Property Owner education and mediation, eviction defense, Section 8 terminations, and habitability retaliation.
- During the FY 2017/18 Budget Study Sessions in May 2017, the Council allocated \$75,000 of General Fund funding for renter legal services.
- In June 2017, staff issued a Request for Information for a contractor to provide renter advocacy and legal representation to prepare for the possible passage of Ordinance 4072 regarding Rent Stabilization. Legal Aid was the only respondent with a scope of services to include tenant education; habitability, retaliation, and discrimination claim defense; Section 8 assistance; eviction defense; eviction assistance for qualified landlords; and mobile home park resident advocacy at a cost of \$87,000 annually.

Background

- On September 26, 2017, the Council, by resolution RES-2017-198, entered into an agreement with Legal Aid to provide these services at a cost of \$87,000 annually. Staff established an agreement with Legal Aid for the period of October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018.
- At the FY 2018/19 Budget Study Sessions in May 2018, Council directed that funding be continued for this agreement in FY 2018/19. Staff recommended that the agreement run concurrent with the fiscal year, recommended funding of \$62,250 for the period of October 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 and recommended that this agreement be reviewed as part of the annual budget process each fiscal year. The Council approved funding to continue the agreement with Legal Aid in the amount of \$62,250 as part of the FY 2018/19 budget. On October 16, 2018, the Council, by resolution RES-2018-179, entered into an agreement with Legal Aid to provide these services at a cost of \$62,250 for a period of nine-months. Staff established an agreement with Legal Aid for the period of October 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Background

- On June 18, 2019, the Council, via RES-2019-065, entered into another one-year agreement with Legal Aid to continue to provide tenant advocacy and legal representation services, in the total amount not to exceed \$87,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 (FY 2019/20).
- On October 20, 2020, the City amended the contract to add additional compensation of \$87,000, extend the time of performance for the period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 (FY2020/21), and make minor adjustments to the Quarterly Reporting Form. This amendment did not require Council approval, because the total compensation did not meet that threshold.
- There is \$92,000.00 in the Housing & Community Services FY 2020/21 budget for a second amendment with Legal Aid, including \$5,000 of CARES Act CDBG-CV funds and \$87,000 of General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended by the Housing & Community Services Department that the Council, by resolution, approve a Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement Number F002014 with Legal Aid of Sonoma County to increase compensation by \$92,000.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$266,000.00, to extend the time of performance through June 30, 2022, and to add federal provisions required for use of Community Development Block Grant funds.