

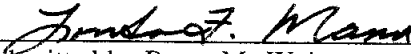


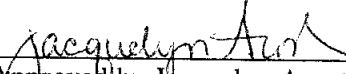
City of Carson

Report to Mayor and City Council

April 1, 2014
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A FIRST AMENDMENT TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR FAIR HOUSING SERVICES WITH THE HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER


Submitted by Barry M. Waite
Acting Director of Community Development


Approved by Jacquelyn Acosta
Acting City Manager

I. SUMMARY

Following a Request for Proposals (RFP) process conducted last year, the City Council at its meeting of June 18, 2013 approved an agreement with the Los Angeles-based Housing Rights Center to administer a fair housing program for the City for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. That agreement provided an option for the City to renew that agreement at its discretion for an additional year (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015). Approval of a First Amendment to the agreement, which would extend it for this one-year period, in an amount not to exceed \$33,330.00, is being recommended at this time.

II. RECOMMENDATION

TAKE the following actions:

1. APPROVE a First Amendment for a one-year extension to the fair housing services agreement between the City of Carson and the Housing Rights Center to administer a fair housing program for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$33,330.00.
2. AUTHORIZE the Mayor to execute the First Amendment following approval as to form by the City Attorney.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

The City of Carson is required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under the Community Development Block Grant program, to ensure fair housing opportunities within its boundaries. Our obligation to provide these services requires us to select a provider to continue the fair housing program and continue the receipt of Program Year 2014-2015 CDBG funds. In the past, the City has retained a fair housing services provider under contract to meet this requirement.

Fair housing is a critical activity that provides Carson residents a measure of protection from housing discrimination and facilitates avenues of redress where such discrimination is alleged to have occurred. The service also handles many landlord-tenant disputes and provides much-needed information to the community. Promoting fair housing choice is a major priority of HUD and also of the City of Carson's Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

At its meeting of June 18, 2013, the City Council approved an agreement (Exhibit No. 1) with the Housing Rights Center (HRC) of Los Angeles to provide these services for a one-year period. That agreement carried with it an option for the City to renew the agreement at its discretion for an additional year (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) at a cost not to exceed \$33,330.00. The proposed First Amendment to this fair housing services agreement will execute the renewal of that agreement.

HRC (and its predecessor agency, the Westside Fair Housing Council) has been providing quality, professional services to the Carson community for well over a decade. Staff reviews HRC's activities on no less than an annual basis and is pleased with the quality of work and professionalism displayed by its staff. HRC's offices are located in Los Angeles at 3255 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1150. However, HRC also maintains an on-site presence in Carson for walk-in clients (on the first Thursday of each month at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center and on the third Wednesday of each month at City Hall), which would continue in the new program year. It is worth noting that HRC was very responsive to requests by City Council several years ago to make its services and written materials available in languages native to ethnic groups represented in the Carson community in substantial numbers (such as Samoan and Tagalog), and to utilize media targeting these communities in disseminating information to the public. HRC is the largest fair housing services provider in California, and possesses more staff to handle counseling, testing, and litigation than any other fair housing services provider in the area.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this agreement are included in the CDBG Annual Action Plan scheduled for adoption by City Council at this evening's meeting, and in the proposed FY 2014/15 budget, in account number 15-70-780-195-6005.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Dispo, June 18, 2013, Item 17. (pgs. 4-6)

Prepared by: Keith Bennett, Housing Analyst

TO: Rev02-24-2014

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

Action taken by City Council


Date _____ Action _____

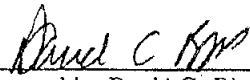


City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

June 18, 2013
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDER AWARD OF AN AGREEMENT FOR FAIR HOUSING SERVICES


Submitted by Clifford W. Graves
Director of Community Development


Approved by David C. Biggs
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

Staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for fair housing services on May 2, 2013 (Exhibit No. 1). One response to that RFP was received from the Los Angeles-based Housing Rights Center (HRC), the City's current fair housing services provider (Exhibit No. 2). A proposed agreement between the City and HRC (Exhibit No. 3) is being presented for City Council's consideration.

II. RECOMMENDATION

TAKE the following actions:

1. APPROVE an agreement between the City of Carson and the Housing Rights Center to administer a fair housing program for the period of July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, in an amount not to exceed \$32,240.00.
2. AUTHORIZE the Mayor to execute the agreement following approval as to form by the City Attorney.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

The City of Carson is required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, to ensure fair housing opportunities within the City. Our obligation to provide these services requires us to select a provider at this time in order to continue the fair housing program and ensure the receipt of Program Year 2013-2014 CDBG funds. In the past, the City has retained a fair housing services provider under contract to meet this requirement.

Fair housing is a critical activity that provides Carson residents a measure of protection from housing discrimination and facilitates avenues of redress where such discrimination is alleged to have occurred. The service also handles many landlord/tenant disputes and provides much-needed information to the community. Promoting fair housing choice is a major priority of HUD and also of the City of Carson's Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

EXHIBIT NO - 1

17



In addition to posting and publishing a notice of the RFP by the usual means, staff mailed the RFP to a list of known fair housing services providers in Southern California (Exhibit No. 4).

HRC (and its predecessor agency, the Westside Fair Housing Council) has been providing quality, professional services to the Carson community for over a decade. Staff has reviewed its activities on a periodic basis and is pleased with the quality of work and professionalism displayed by its staff. HRC maintains an on-site presence in the City for walk-in clients (on the first Thursday of each month at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center and on the third Wednesday of each month at City Hall), and proposes to continue providing that presence.

HRC has also been quite receptive to requests to make its services and written materials available in languages native to ethnic groups represented in substantial numbers in Carson (such as Samoan and Tagalog), and to utilize media targeting those communities in disseminating information to the public. HRC is the largest fair housing services provider in California, and possesses more staff to handle counseling, testing, and litigation than any other fair housing services provider in the area. HRC's offices are located in Los Angeles at 3255 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1150. HRC has offered to do free housing rights training for City staff.

The fee for services of \$32,240.00 proposed by HRC is the same cost it is charging the City for the current program year (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013). HRC's proposal and the proposed fair housing services agreement both provide an option for the City to renew the agreement at its discretion for an additional year (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) at a cost not to exceed \$33,330.00 for that additional year.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this agreement are included in the CDBG Annual Action Plan approved by Council on May 2, 2013, and in the proposed FY 2013/14 budget, in account number 15-70-780-195-6005.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Request for Proposals for Fair Housing Services. (pgs. 4-15)
2. Housing Rights Center Proposal for Fair Housing Services. (pgs. 16-105)
3. Draft Proposed Fair Housing Services Agreement with Housing Rights Center. (pgs. 106-114)
4. Fair Housing Service Providers Mailing List. (pg. 115)

City of Carson

Report to Mayor and City Council

June 18, 2013

Prepared by: Keith Bennett

TO: Rev09-04-2012

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

Action taken by City Council

Date 6/18/2013 Action Approved under new business
consent JD/AP 5/0 [Signature]

