

C-6

July 20, 2021

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute an agreement, and any necessary documents including subsequent amendments, with the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab, on behalf of What Works Cities, for the potential placement of two fellows, in the total amount not to exceed \$150,000, for a one-year period. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to enter into an agreement with the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab (GPL), for technical assistance improving the City's procurement processes and achieving better contracting outcomes for historically marginalized populations, under the What Works Cities Initiatives (WWC).

The GPL hires and trains full-time fellows, embedding them in government agencies to lead 12 to 36-month intensive reform projects, and has identified the City of Long Beach (City) for the potential placement of two GPL fellows for the coming period of August 2021 to July 2022. On June 23, 2020, the City Council approved an agreement for the placement of one GPL fellow, who has focused on diagnosing challenges and making the procurement process more efficient. In recognition of the valuable partnership the City offers, WWC has proposed extending and enhancing its engagement with the City for another 12 months. In collaboration with WWC, the GPL fellows will assist the City with improving accessibility to procurement opportunities for diverse businesses, improving vendor outreach and engagement, building the capacity of local diverse and small businesses, and managing contracts with a lens toward reducing inequities.

Through its continued engagement with WWC since 2017, the City has launched numerous data-informed projects, including the City's open data platform, DataLB; an online business development resource hub, Bizport; and the establishment of the Office of Civic Innovation, which has facilitated other initiatives focused on public safety and economic development.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Amy R. Webber on June 25, 2021 and by Revenue Management Officer Geraldine Alejo on June 30, 2021.

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TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on July 20, 2021, to execute the agreement by August 2021. The agreement with GPL is anticipated to be effective August 1, 2021. The fellows' engagement will conclude 12 months after their start date.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost associated with the fellows is estimated at \$400,000 per 12-month term. Of this amount, \$250,000 of the GPL fellows' work will be directly funded through a prime award sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Inc., which established WWC. The remaining amount of \$150,000 will be funded by the City as part of the City Council approved Long Beach Recovery Act. An appropriation, as needed, will be brought to the City Council at a future date. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN GROSS
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER