



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** May 21, 2013

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Police Department, Patrol Division

**SUBJECT:** Service Agreement With Thresholds To Recovery, Inc. To Operate The Sobering Center

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve and authorize the Chief of Police to negotiate and execute a service agreement with Thresholds to Recovery, Inc. to operate the Sobering Center in Fiscal Year 2014 with annual fees not to exceed \$202,800 and in a form approved by the City Attorney.

### DISCUSSION:

The City has used Thresholds to Recovery, Inc. to operate the Sobering Center at the Faulding Hotel since its inception in 1994. The purpose of the Sobering Center is to provide an opportunity for public inebriates to voluntarily get sober in a safe, alcohol-free environment, as opposed to being arrested and booked into Santa Barbara County Jail. In addition to introducing the inebriate to an alcohol-free environment, the officer turnaround time is considerably less and the officer is allowed to remain in the City on patrol.

From May 1, 2012, to April 25, 2013, Thresholds to Recovery, Inc. processed 633 first-time offenders and 383 repeat offenders, for a total of 1,016 admissions. Since the opening of the center in 1994, Thresholds to Recovery, Inc. has processed 13,057 first-time offenders and 20,233 total admissions, including repeat offenders.

Thresholds to Recovery, Inc. personnel are experts in the field of drug and alcohol programs, working with low-income clients and providing a long-term treatment network for first-time offenders. The program is evaluated annually and continued success is anticipated. The Sobering Center and the services provided by Thresholds to Recovery, Inc. are a valuable resource to the Police Department and the community.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Funds to operate the Sobering Center come from monies previously allocated to pay for the public inebriates' jail booking fees. Thresholds to Recovery, Inc. has agreed to operate the sobering center for \$202,800 in Fiscal Year 2014. This amount represents an increase of 2.99% in total operating costs when compared to Fiscal Year 2013. Funding for this contract is included in the Police Department's Fiscal Year 2014 budget.

**PREPARED BY:** Brent Mandrell, Police Lieutenant

**SUBMITTED BY:** Camerino Sanchez, Chief of Police

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office