



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 17, 2010

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Police Department, Patrol Division

SUBJECT: Service Agreement With Thresholds To Recovery 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 2010, beginning July 1, 2010, and ending June 30, 2011, with annual fees not-to-exceed \$190,788, 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 remains in the City.

From July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010, Thresholds to Recovery, Inc. processed 702 first-time offenders and 386 repeat offenders, a total of 1,088 admissions. Since opening in 1994, Thresholds to Recovery, Inc. has processed 12,368 first-time individual admissions and 19,164 total client admissions, including repeat offenders.

Funds to operate the Sobering Center come from monies previously allocated to pay for the public inebriates' jail booking fees. Personnel at Thresholds to Recovery are experts in the field of drug and alcohol programs, targeting low-income clients. Continued success is anticipated based on program evaluations performed annually over the past nine years. They have continued to provide a treatment network for first-time offenders on a long-term basis. The Sobering Center is a valuable resource to the Police Department and the community. Thresholds to Recovery, Inc has agreed to operate the sobering center for fees of up to \$190,788 in Fiscal Year 2011. This amount represents a decrease of 1% in total operating costs when compared to Fiscal Year 2010.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Funding for this contract is included in the Police Department's Fiscal Year 2011 budget. However, this contract will allow the City the option to discontinue funding at any point in the year given that the funding is dependent on concessions from all labor groups to fully balance the General Fund budget.

PREPARED BY: Alex Altavilla, Police Lieutenant

SUBMITTED BY: Camerino Sanchez, Chief of Police

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office