



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations

Date: February 2, 2010

To: Ways and Means Committee, Council Member Hodges Chair

Subject: St. Stephen's Human Services, Inc. for Homeless Outreach Services, Contract #C-24688

Recommendation: That the proper City officers be authorized to execute Amendment #3 to Contract #C-24688 for St. Stephen's Human Services, Inc., for Homeless Outreach Services, for the following reasons: to extend the contract period from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010, and increase the amount by \$150,000, payable from (NCR funding string).

Previous Directives: In the Mayor's 2007 Adopted Budget, \$100,000 was awarded to St. Stephen's Human Services, Inc., via an RFP process for homeless outreach services.

The Mayor's 2008 Adopted Budget included an additional \$100,000 to continue homeless outreach services.

The Mayor's 2009 Adopted Budget included an additional \$150,000 to continue homeless outreach services by adding an additional outreach worker.

The Mayor's 2010 Adopted Budget includes an additional \$150,000 to continue homeless outreach services.

Department Information

Prepared by: Cathy ten Broeke
Homelessness Coordinator

Approved by: David Rubedor
Neighborhood and Community Relations Director

Presenters in Committee: Cathy ten Broeke

Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval Date April 23, 2007

Financial Impact

- No financial impact – or Action is within current department budget
- Action is within the Business Plan

Community Impact

- City Goal – A safe place to call home – housing, health and safety

Background

Street Outreach at St. Stephen's Human Services conducts outreach to individuals and families living in places not meant for human habitation in Minneapolis who often, before Street Outreach, came in contact with law enforcement. The program also emphasizes creating a coordinated outreach system involving the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD), criminal justice, other social service agencies and community stakeholders, like neighborhood groups, faith communities and businesses. The program began in October 2007 at the initiation of the *Heading Home Hennepin Plan to End Homelessness*.

Outcomes

- Street Outreach housed 68 unsheltered persons from October 2007 to June 2009 and 65 in the past six months from July 2009 to December 2009.
- Minneapolis Police Department reported a 14% reduction in crime by homeless persons in the downtown area from October 2007 to June 2009.
- Street Outreach has assisted 1215 unsheltered persons since the program started and the program diverted over 870 calls from the MPD.
- Street Outreach has saved the MPD over \$388,890 in two years considering the cost difference of a Police Officer and Street Outreach Worker. Table 1 below illustrates the costs savings per call.

Table 1. Cost savings of Street Outreach per Call Diverted since program start

Cost of Police Response	Cost of Street Outreach Response
\$84 per hour rookie police officer \$152 per booking \$211 per night in jail \$447 total cost per call	\$50 per hour experienced outreach worker who connects offender to social service resources \$50 total cost per call
Savings estimate Per Call Diverted	
870 calls x \$447= \$388,890	

- System improvements have been made to unite the MPD, City Prosecutor's Office and the court system, specifically the County Mental Health Court, with the Street Outreach Team in efforts to end street homelessness. The criminal justice system and MPD were the primary referral source for the over 100 clients served.

In addition, Street Outreach provides an appropriate service response to the problem of homelessness on the streets of downtown Minneapolis. Street Outreach is able to provide services that change behavior rather than just move the homeless person into a cycle of police, jail and streets.

