



# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Edward D. Reiskin  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Sara Bedford  
Director, Human Services

**SUBJECT:** SAVE and Downtown Streets Team  
Workforce Development Timeframe  
Extension

**DATE:** June 23, 2021

City Administrator Approval

Date: Jun 24, 2021

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt The Following Pieces Of Legislation:**

- 1. A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 88333 C.M.S. To Extend The Grant Award Term End Date With Soldiers Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Center For Community Change And Empowerment To June 30, 2022; And**
- 2. A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend The Grant Agreement With Downtown Streets Team (DST) For A Workforce And Employment Placement Program And Extend The Term Date To June 30, 2022.**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed resolutions would authorize the City Administrator to extend the deadline through June 30, 2022 for two grant agreements: 1) between the City of Oakland and Soldiers Against Violence Everywhere Center For Community Change And Empowerment (SAVE), and 2) between the City of Oakland and Downtown Streets Team (DST). These two nonprofit organizations provide workforce opportunities and services for individuals who are unsheltered.

SAVE focuses on blight abatement in West and Downtown Oakland. DST manages a two-tiered program which includes blight abatement in 3 locations across the City and the StreetsTeam Enterprises program, which places participants in 3 months of paid on-the-job training.

Due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, both programs started later in the 2020-21 fiscal year than expected. Adoption of the proposed resolutions will allow these interventions to continue providing increased blight abatement and sanitation near encampments and along major thoroughfares and corridors in Oakland. Both of these interventions provide an opportunity for unsheltered persons to develop the skills necessary to acquire and/or maintain gainful employment all while receiving supportive services and financial incentives.

City Council  
July 6, 2021

## **BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

### Soldiers Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)

On August 1, 2019 the City Council adopted Resolution No. 87834 C.M.S. authorizing the City Administrator to enter into grant agreements with various organizations and nonprofits. The resolution allocated \$350,000 to SAVE for workforce development services for people experiencing homelessness. The funding was authorized for fiscal year (FY) 2019-20. Due to organizational changes within SAVE, the grant was unable to be executed in FY 2019-20.

In October 20 2020 , the City Council adopted Resolution No. 88333 C.M.S, amending Resolution No. 87834 C.M.S. to extend the timeframe of the grant with SAVE through June 30, 2021. SAVE is a small, local nonprofit and required additional time to fulfill the City's various requirements for grant execution and fund disbursement. As a result, the grant agreement with SAVE was executed in December 2020. By March 2021, SAVE began hiring unsheltered people to remove trash in West Oakland. Due to organizational challenges, work was paused at the end of April 2021 and is expected to resume in July 2021.

In May 2021, SAVE enrolled in the City's "Strengthening Organizations to Address and End Homelessness in Oakland Capacity Building Project". This project is designed to support small, Black, Indigenous, People Of Color (BIPOC)-led organizations and will provide additional support to SAVE as they re-start their employment program in July 2021. Extending the agreement by one year would provide sufficient time to finish the capacity building project and resume services with unspent grant funds. The program will serve 75 individuals over the course of the grant term.

### Downtown Streets Team (DST)

On October 2, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 87361 C.M.S. which authorized the City Administrator to enter into a grant agreement with DST for \$85,000 for a pilot workforce development program. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, DST successfully implemented this pilot program.

On May 12, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 88109 C.M.S., awarding \$750,000 in State Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) grant funds to DST, selected through the City's Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to provide a workforce development and employment training program for the unsheltered in FY 2020-2021. One third of the grant funds (\$250,000) was specifically allocated to fund DST's StreetsTeam Enterprises paid on-the-job training program.

DST's grant was executed in September 2020 and the organization began setting-up the program in October 2020. By January 1, 2021 DST hired all staff, established three blight abatement cleaning sites, and began to establish the StreetsTeam Enterprises program component. Since that time, both components are operational and exceeding target deliverables in trash pickup in the service areas. The Tier 2 program has 10 participants with 6 placed with BACS and 4 placed with Block By Block. DST continues to expand it's cleanup areas around the City.

The City's authority to fund the work will end on June 30, 2021. Extending the agreement will allow DST to complete a full year of program operations.

## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

According to the 2019 The Point-in-Time Homeless Count, when asked what might have prevented their homelessness, many people identified financial assistance; 35 percent rental assistance, and 32 percent benefits/income. Extending the term of these workforce development grant agreements with SAVE and DST will provide a pathway towards greater income generation for those who are unsheltered or tenuously sheltered through employment. In addition to the program's social impact, the program will result in a reduction of garbage buildup near encampments and major thoroughfares and corridors throughout Oakland.

SAVE created the Community Action Partnership (CAP) program to connect at least 75 homeless Oaklanders to various forms of job training and development – including a work experience program, lifeskills classes, and referrals to other employment programs. As part of that training, which involves community cleanup and blight abatement, participants also receive case management services, access to life management classes, and the ability to receive up to \$1,400 in stipends for completing individual development goals. Additionally, participants gain access to transportation vouchers, work supplies, and gift cards for basic needs through the program. CAP participants provide cleanup services in Downtown and West Oakland. Twenty people are expected to obtain permanent living wage employment by the end of the grant term.

DST operates two tiers of employment training. The DST Tier 1 model is a low-barrier Volunteer Work Experience program, in which unhoused participants and participants at-risk of homelessness (“Team Members”) beautify their community in exchange for case management, employment services and a non-cash basic needs support. The non-cash stipends are targeted to the individual needs of the Team Member and could include support with food, transportation, cell phone bills, clothing, etc. This tier will serve at least 90 participants over the course of the grant term.

The DST Tier 2 model is designed for participants who have successfully participated in the Tier 1 program, as well as for other unsheltered people who are ready for a job training experience. This model provides 20 hours per week of paid on-the-job training through partnerships established by DST with various employers. Trainees spend up to three months in the program with access to case management and employment development services. The program's goal is to have as many participants as possible hired by the partnering agencies at the end of the training period. Current paid placements are with Bay Area Community Services (BACS) and Block By Block, which train participants to become homeless services Peer Counselors or Street Ambassadors, respectively. This Tier will serve at least 30 participants over the course of the grant term.

If the City Council chooses not to adopt the proposed resolutions, both SAVE and DST agreements will end on June 30, 2021 and so will the blight abatement work that is being conducted, as well as the associated jobs and development activities for unsheltered individuals. Extending the agreement with SAVE represents a chance to grow an Oakland-based small nonprofit in the work of ending homelessness in Oakland. Extending the agreement with DST represents a chance to continue the only local program currently training unsheltered individuals to become homeless services peer counselors.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with either resolution as they seek only to extend the timeframe for existing grant allocations.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

No outreach was deemed necessary for the proposed policy action beyond the standard City Council agenda noticing procedures.

### **COORDINATION**

This report and legislation have been reviewed by the Office of the City Attorney, the Homelessness Administrator, the Department of Public Works and the Budget Bureau.

### **PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

Due to late starting programs, data is limited for both agencies.

SAVE was able to recruit 8 participants before the work paused. Eighty-seven (87) percent of those participants were male, 100 percent were African-American, and about 62 percent had a physical disability.

DST has served 34 people in its Tier 1 program and 10 people in its Tier 2 program so far. Workforce demographics are as follows: 82 percent of participants are between the ages of 35 and 61 years of age, 70 percent of participants are African-American, 90 percent of participants are male, and 47 percent have a physical disability.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** All funds identified in this report are to provide services to the unsheltered residents of Oakland.

***Environmental:*** The scope of work provided by the workforce development program is intended to address the environmental impacts of litter and debris in homeless encampments and in major thoroughfares and corridors within West Oakland.

***Race & Equity:*** The expenditure of these funds is targeted to the most vulnerable and at-risk populations in this City and is providing essential and basic human services. Homelessness in Oakland disproportionately impacts African American households. Seventy percent of people experiencing homelessness in Oakland are African American compared with 24 percent of the general population, according to the most recent Homeless Point in Time Count (2019). These funds ensure that Oakland is creating pathways out of homelessness through income generation and the removal of some barriers to employment and stable housing. In addition,

the DST Tier 2 model trains people with lived experience to become staff in homeless services programs. This is a best practice in ensuring that the homeless response system is focused on racial equity.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt The Following Pieces Of Legislation:

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For questions regarding this report, please contact Lara Tannenbaum, Community Homelessness Services Manager, at 510-238-6187.

Respectfully submitted,



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