



CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reskin
City Administrator

FROM: William A. Gilchrist
Director, PBD

SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement with
FUSE Corps

DATE: October 12, 2020

City Administrator Approval 

Date: October 28, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator, Or Designee To:

- 1) Negotiate And Execute A Contract Between Fuse Corps And The City (FUSE Fellow Contract) In An Amount Not-To-Exceed One Hundred Thousand And One Dollars (\$100,001) To Fund One Executive-Level Fellow For The Planning And Building Department For A Full Eight-Month Contract Term; And**
- 2) Waive The Competitive Request For Proposals/Qualifications (RFP/Q) Process Requirement For The Proposed FUSE Fellow Contract.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FUSE Corps is a national nonprofit organization that specializes in recruiting, training and placing highly experienced executive-level professionals in local government agencies to deliver on strategic high impact projects. FUSE Fellows work with civic leaders to address government challenges on a range of issues including economic and workforce development, sustainability, healthcare, public safety, climate change and education.

The Planning and Building Department (PBD) is requesting to enter into a new contract with FUSE Corps. to continue the current work that is being accomplished by a FUSE Fellow. The request is for a period of January 25, 2021 through September 25, 2021 for a contract amount not to exceed \$100,001. The FUSE Fellow has made significant contribution to the Proactive Rental Inspection Program (PRIP), including detailed scheduling, budgeting and staffing. This was done in collaboration with City staff and consultation with other jurisdictions that have a similar program.

City Council
November 10, 2020

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In July 2018, the City Council approved Resolution No. 87305 C.M.S., which authorized two FUSE fellows to aide with strategic programs within PBD and the Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD). PBD partnered with FUSE Corps to assess current permit-application processes, identify gaps in service, develop the Proactive Rental Inspections Program (PRIP) and recommend ways to improve operations.

The PRIP is currently under development and is expected to be delivered to City Council by early April 2021. Development and refinement of the Program will continue after City Council approval. Elements will include: Inspector expectations, Training for Code Enforcement staff, the provision of education, outreach and ongoing support for landlords and tenants. In order to alleviate resident concerns and ensure effective implementation of inspections, PBD plans to involve community members and nonprofit organizations in the implementation of the Program. Additionally, the PRIP will implement complementary programs such as public access to code violation information.

In May 2019, the City entered into a contract with FUSE Corps to bring on one FUSE fellow to aid PBD per Resolution No. 87578 C.M.S. adopted by City Council on March 21, 2019 to take the lead in examining the current PBD workflows related to code enforcement and refine and help PBD adopt new efficiencies that will ultimately result in increased safety and accountability for Oakland residents. On September 23, 2019, the FUSE Fellow was appointed.

On September 24, 2020, PBD entered into a \$49,999 contract with FUSE for a four-month period until a new contract could be reviewed and approved by the City Council.

PBD is requesting to enter into a new contract with FUSE Corps. to continue the current work that is being accomplished by the FUSE Fellow. The request is for a period of January 25, 2021 through September 25, 2021 for a contract amount not to exceed \$100,001.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

FUSE Corps is a non-profit organization that is already working with the City and other local governments such as Los Angeles, San Jose and Seattle to drive actionable solutions to government challenges. FUSE Fellows, who are comprised of talented mid-career professionals, work intimately with civic leaders to achieve specific deliverables related to a defined set of issues. Because FUSE Fellows work towards a targeted goal throughout the fellowship term of one year, results are comprehensive and cannot be replicated at the staff level given staff's competing responsibilities and limited resources.

Waiver of RFP/Q Competitive Selection Requirements

Section 2.04.051.A of the Oakland Municipal Code (OMC) authorizes the City Council to waive the competitive bidding requirements of the OMC section 2.04.050 after a finding and determination that it is in the best interest of the City to do so.

Staff recommends that the City Council find and determine that it is in the best interest of the City to waive the competitive bidding requirements based on the following factors:

- **Unique Service:** FUSE Corps Executive Fellowships are unique and cannot be found through typical government purchasing standards. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, FUSE Corps has proprietary approaches to recruiting, training, coaching and supporting Fellows who participate in the program. As such, a competing “product” would be difficult and possibly prohibitively expensive to find in the private sector, especially given the 12-month nature of the projects.
- **Efficiencies:** Because FUSE Fellows are already working within the City, there are efficiencies for the City as staff would be contracting with a partner who is well-versed with the City and its processes.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of securing one Fellow for an eight-month contract is \$100,001.

There will be no fiscal impact for the FUSE Corp Fellows as it will be from already budgeted and appropriated funds.

PBD staff have identified available funding in the amount of \$100,001 in the Development Services Fund (2415), Inspections: Neighborhood Preservation (84454), Services: Professional Account (54930), Administrative Project (1000018), and Livable Neighborhood Code Enforcement Services Program (NB31).

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

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

COORDINATION

This report was prepared in coordination between PBD, the Budget Bureau, and the City Attorney’s Office.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: There are no economic opportunities associated with this report.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities associated with this report.

Race & Equity: Approval of this resolution will help ensure the City’s ability to address some of the most pressing issues facing City departments in regulating the habitability of rental properties in a strategic manner. The PRIP is currently undergoing a detailed Race and Equity Analysis to ensure the Program addresses disparities and does not create new or exacerbate

existing ones. The FUSE fellow has been conducting the analysis in collaboration with multiple City departments.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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For questions regarding this report, please contact Issam Shahrouri, Deputy Director/Building Official, at (510) 238-6435.

Respectfully submitted,



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Prepared by:
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