ITEM NO. 14

STAFF REPORT

CITY OF OCEANSIDE

DATE: January 5, 2011

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Economic and Community Development Department
Property Management Division

SUBJECT: **SPECIAL CITIZEN'S AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PURPOSES OF IDENTIFYING AND ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE TO MEET THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE'S ANIMAL CONTROL AND ANIMAL SHELTERING REQUIREMENTS**

SYNOPSIS

Based on City Council's prior direction, staff recommends that the City Council approve the creation of a special citizen's ad hoc committee as part of the Economic Development Commission for the purposes of identifying and establishing an alternative to meet the City of Oceanside's animal control and animal sheltering requirements that are currently provided by the San Diego Humane Society.

BACKGROUND

The San Diego Humane Society ("SDHS"), through its predecessors in interest have been providing animal sheltering and animal control services to the City of Oceanside ("City") since 1963 pursuant to a number of professional services agreements. The most recent professional services agreement between the City and SDHS was entered into in October of 2010, retroactive to July 1, 2010 for a period of two years expiring June 30, 2012.

Over the past few years the costs of the services provided by SDHS have continued to significantly increase while the level of services has been reduced. In order to continue to meet the animal control and animal sheltering requirements mandated by the State of California, yet control the cost to the City, staff, at the direction of the City Council, was directed to explore viable alternatives to the service provided by SDHS. At the November 10, 2010, City Council meeting, City Council directed staff to pursue the formation of a citizen's ad hoc committee to provide assistance to staff to find an alternative to the services provided by SDHS.

ANALYSIS

Staff has explored a number of alternatives for the creation of a special citizen's ad hoc committee for the purpose of identifying and establishing an alternative to meet the City's animal control and animal sheltering requirements. One alternative examined by staff is to create the special citizen's ad hoc committee under the Economic Development Commission ("EDC").

The rationale for putting the ad hoc committee under the purview of the EDC is twofold. One, the identification of a business operation similar to what an existing business in Oceanside is currently providing, is an area which the EDC regularly examines and analyzes. Two, by utilizing an existing commission, such as the EDC, there is cost efficiency by not having to create, organize and staff a new commission/committee.

Other parameters of such an ad hoc committee would be as follow:

- The purpose of the ad hoc committee would be to identify private sector funding opportunities; meet monthly to review staff analysis of various animal control and/or animal sheltering options; and review recommendations by staff to the City Council.
- The ad hoc committee under the EDC would be limited in duration to one year based on the need to expeditiously come up with an alternative prior to the expiration of the current agreement with SDHS, which expires on June 30, 2012.
- The members of the ad hoc committee would be selected by the EDC and will include members of the community that have volunteered to serve on such an ad hoc committee and who currently do not sit on the EDC.

It is the recommendation by staff that the City Council approve the creation of a special citizen's ad hoc committee as part of the EDC under the criteria set forth above. Should the City Council approve staff's recommendation, staff will return within 30 days to provide the specific guidelines, procedures and policies to govern a special citizen's ad hoc committee as part of the EDC.

Should the City Council decline staff's recommendation to place the ad hoc committee under the purview of the EDC, the City Council could direct staff to either find another already established advisory group to handle this issue or create an entirely new body. Staff would then return within the next 30 days to provide the applicable specific guidelines, procedures and policies.

FISCAL IMPACT

At this time, there should not be a direct fiscal impact to the General Fund should City Council approve staff's recommendation.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Does not apply.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

Does not apply.

CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS

As proposed, the committee meets the definition of a Special Purpose Committee described in City Council Policy 100-58, and would be subject to Brown Act requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the creation of a special citizen's ad hoc committee as part of the Economic Development Commission for the purposes of identifying and establishing an alternative to meet the City of Oceanside's animal control and animal sheltering requirements that are currently provided by the San Diego Humane Society.

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