

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance 1) authorizing the execution of a sub-contract (and supplements if necessary) with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$246,810 from the Administrative Office of the Courts (personal services agreement PSC22019) for staffing and administrative costs associated with Eviction Resolution Services offered through the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center; and (2) amending the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations and Special Reserves Fund to increase the appropriation by \$123,405.

Mac Cummins, Director, 452-6191

Mike McCormick Huentelman, Assistant Director, 452-4089

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Community Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance authorizes an agreement with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept reimbursable grant funds for staffing and administrative costs associated with Eviction Resolution Services offered through the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center. The agreement will reimburse the City of Bellevue for authorized expenses, up to \$246,810, incurred between July 2021 through June 2023. The Ordinance also amends the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserves Fund to facilitate expenditures during this budget year.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6601

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The mission of the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center (BCRC) is “to increase the problem-solving capacity of Bellevue’s community.” This is accomplished by providing conflict resolution services that address community disputes between neighbors, businesses, and public entities. Services provided are confidential, voluntary, and free, available to people who live, work, or go to school in Bellevue, and are provided by staff and trained volunteers from the community.

The BCRC is a dispute resolution center formed under Chapter 7.75 of the Revised Code of Washington to provide equal access to justice. The center is an active, funded member of Resolution Washington, a consortium of 22 other dispute resolution centers. Volunteers are certified according to the standards of the Uniform Mediation Act.

In April, the Washington State Legislature passed E2SSB 5160. A part of this legislation mandates the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to contract with dispute resolution centers to establish a court-based Eviction Resolution Pilot Program (ERPP). The ERPP must be used to facilitate the resolution of nonpayment of rent cases between a landlord and tenant before a landlord files an unlawful detainer action.

Through the ERPP, trained BCRC conciliators will provide certain Eviction Resolution Services (ERS) as required by E2SSB 5160 and King County Superior Court Order 21-0-12050-3. This will include, but is not limited to:

- Free conflict coaching to help landlords and tenants resolve eviction-related issues.
- Conciliating financial disputes that put tenants at risk of losing their rental housing.
- Facilitating negotiations between tenants and landlords, to develop reasonable arrangements for unpaid rent.
- Coordinating rental assistance (when available).
- Sharing referral and resource information.
- Providing a Certificate of Participation once negotiation has ended to both landlord and tenant.

The BCRC will not:

- Assist those tenants or landlords outside Bellevue or Kirkland.
- Offer legal advice or representation.
- Offer rental assistance directly.

Under the proposed agreement, BCRC would be a sub-contractor under the “Personal Services Agreement PSC22019,” an agreement executed between the AOC and Resolution Washington. The Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County is the fiscal agent for Resolution Washington. This sub-contract allows the BCRC to provide ERS under the ERPP to landlords and tenants in the cities of Bellevue and Kirkland.

As a sub-contractor, the BCRC will receive a grant amount of \$123,405 for each year cycle 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. The original funding source is from an allocation of funding from the federal COVID Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), administered by the AOC, covering fiscal years July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue City Code 4.28.200 requires Council approval to execute grant contracts that exceed \$90,000.

The acceptance of this grant and authorization of the funding agreement is consistent with the following policies:

Neighborhood Element of the Comprehensive Plan:

- N-7. Support the capacity of local neighborhood communities to actively engage and respond to changing internal neighborhood needs and external stresses.
- N-11. Enable neighborhood-tailored solutions to localized issues while ensuring that they meet Citywide responsibilities.

Fiscal Impact

This action authorizes the City to accept funds in the amount of \$246,810 for reimbursement associated with Conflict Resolution administration and program activities and to amend the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations and Special Reserves Fund to increase the appropriation by \$123,405. The budget cycle for 2023-2024 will authorize expenditures consistent with the remaining value of the contract.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance (1) authorizing the execution of a sub-contract (and supplements if necessary) with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$246,810 from the Administrative Office of the Courts (personal services agreement PSC22019) for staffing and administrative costs associated with Eviction Resolution Services offered through the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center; and (2) amending the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations and Special Reserves Fund to increase the appropriation by \$123,405.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. Sub-Contract under Master AOC Contract Number PSC22019 between the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent For Resolution Washington, and ERPP Centers within Resolution Washington
Proposed Ordinance No. 6601

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Personal Services Agreement PSC22019 Between the Administrative Office of the Courts and Resolution Washington