



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 27, 2021

To: Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín

Subject: Contract No. 32000196 Amendment: Szabo & Associates for Communications Consulting Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend Contract No. 32000196 with Szabo & Associates for communications consulting services for the Mayor's Office, in the amount of \$78,000, extending the contract to June 30, 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This amendment will add \$78,000 to extend the Mayor's Office's existing contract for communications consulting services. The term of the contract will be extended by one year to June 30, 2022. Funds for this contract amendment are available from the Mayor's Office budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Under Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.18.010A, "expenditures...which exceed the amount of \$50,000 shall require Council approval", as adopted under Ordinance 7566 and mandated under Article XI, Section 67.5 of the City Charter.

Contract No. 32000196 was entered into on March 16, 2020, originally at \$35,000. Since then, amendments have been made to extend the term of the contract. A new extension is needed to continue these services, which will increase the cumulative amount of the contract beyond the \$50,000 threshold, thus requiring Council approval.

BACKGROUND

Under Article VI, Section 21 of the City Charter, the Mayor is the ceremonial head of the City. As such, the Mayor serves as a spokesperson for the City, and should provide consistent information to residents and businesses on the operations and policies of the City. Providing open and transparent lines of communication is a cornerstone of democracy and good governance. Relaying critical information, such as communications during the ongoing local state of emergency in response to COVID-19, PG&E Power Safety Shutoff events, other critical events, and City policies and programs, are important to the health, safety and operation of the City.

Services provided by Szabo & Associates include development of press releases and media advisories on issues of importance to the Berkeley community, maintaining social media accounts, press coordination, graphic design, and other support services relating to the communications from the Mayor's Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no environmental impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: SZABO & ASSOCIATES FOR COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING
SERVICES FOR THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, as the ceremonial head of the city under the City Charter, the Mayor must serve as a city spokesperson and provide consistent information to residents and businesses on the operations and policies of the City; and

WHEREAS, Szabo & Associates is a communications consult firm whose services include development of press releases and media advisories on issues of importance to the Berkeley community, maintaining social media accounts, press coordination, and other support services relating to the communications; and

WHEREAS, Providing open and transparent lines of communication is a cornerstone of democracy and good governance. Relaying critical information, such as communications during the ongoing local state of emergency in response to COVID-19, PG&E Power Safety Shutoff events, other critical events, and City policies and programs, are important to the health, safety and operation of the City; and

WHEREAS, under Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.18.010A, "expenditures...which exceed the amount of \$50,000 shall require Council approval", as adopted under Ordinance 7566 and mandated under Article XI, Section 67.5 of the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, Contract No. 32000196 was entered into on March 16, 2020, originally at \$35,000, with additional amendments having been made, and requires Council approval by passing the \$50,000 threshold; and

WHEREAS, funding for this amendment to extend the contract by one year is available in the Mayor's Office budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute an amendment to Contract No. 32000196 with Szabo & Associates for communications consulting services for the Mayor's Office, increasing the contract by \$78,000, and extending the contract to June 30, 2022.

