THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: April 13, 2021

Subject: Assisting Buncombe County administer COVID-19 vaccinations

Staff Resource(s): Scott Burnette, Asheville Fire Chief; Abigail Riley, Financial Business Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County for staffing and reimbursement at the mass COVID-19 vaccination site.

Background:

- To help Buncombe County administer COVID-19 vaccinations in a quicker, more efficient manner, the County recruited area-wide fire departments including the Asheville Fire Department and Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville for staffing assistance of operations at the sites.
- During its time onsite, the Asheville Fire Department and Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville staff help with appointment registration; administering vaccinations; patient observation education; traffic management; resource management; and logistics support.
- Buncombe County will reimburse the City at hours paid (regular or overtime) plus fringe benefits for all employees assisting in the operations of the County COVID vaccination and testing site
- The agreement ends in June 2021.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Agreement is with Buncombe County

Council Goal(s):

- Connected and Engaged Community

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Receiving reimbursement funds will reduce the impact this assignment has on the Asheville Fire Department and Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville compensation and benefits budgets.
- Assisting Buncombe County with their COVID vaccination efforts allows for more vaccines to be administered during the time period set forth in the agreement than could be administered without the participation of the Asheville Fire Department and Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville.
- The Asheville Fire Department continues its long relationship with working with Buncombe County to deliver public safety services.

Con(s):

- None Identified

Fiscal Impact:

- The fiscal impact will be neutral because Buncombe County will reimburse the City of Asheville all its compensation and benefits expenses.
- The reimbursements will be around $50,000 each month and will vary depending on actual staffing levels and compensation amounts.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion for a resolution for the City Council to authorize the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County for assistance at COVID-19 vaccination and testing sites.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BUNCOMBE COUNTY FOR ASSISTANCE AT COVID-19 VACCINATION AND TESTING SITES

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-461 to enter into contracts or agreements with other units of local government in order to execute any undertaking ; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina law requires that such agreements be ratified by resolution of the governing board of each unit spread upon its minutes; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020 a State of Emergency was declared by the County and the State of North Carolina due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and this State of Emergency is still in effect;

WHEREAS, Buncombe County has requested assistance from the Asheville Fire Department and Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville for operations related to the County COVID-19 vaccination and testing sites;

WHEREAS, the City has agreed to offer such assistance and to assign staff for site operations as appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to provide assistance with COVID-19 vaccination and testing sites, and further authorized to collect funds from Buncombe County for reimbursement of the services provided to the County by the City of Asheville.

Read, approved and adopted this the 13th day of April, 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney