THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: December 8, 2020

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding with RRI West Management LLC for COVID-19 Homeless Shelter

Staff Resource(s): Sam Powers, Director of Community and Economic Development
Brian Huskey, Community Development Analyst

Action(s) Requested: Authorization for City Manager's execution of an agreement with RRI West Management, LLC (Red Roof Inn) to extend provision of 60 rooms for the emergency homeless COVID-19 shelter through February 8, 2021.

Background:

- On May 12, 2020, Council ratified the City Manager's execution of agreements with Red Roof Inn, Inc., Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina, and Axis Security for operations of a COVID-19 motel-based non-congregate emergency homeless shelter for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness and at significant risk of contracting COVID-19 because of age and/or underlying chronic health concerns.
- On October 27, 2020, Council authorized the City Manager to execute extensions of the existing agreements with Red Roof Inn, Inc., Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina, and Axis Security for a 90-day period through February 8, 2021.
- Corporate restructuring at Red Roof Inn has placed the Asheville Red Roof Inn property under the direction of a different management division operating under a different company within their organization, RRI West Management, LLC.
- Therefore, an agreement with the new corporate entity is now required.
- RRI West Management, LLC has agreed to honor all the terms and conditions in the original agreement made with Red Roof Inn, Inc. executed in May 2020.

Council Goal(s):

- A Diverse Community
- A Well-Planned and Livable Community
- Fiscally Resilient City

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Continues the successful operation of the existing expanded COVID-19 homeless shelter.
- Allows for additional time to effect housing placement for shelter occupants.
- Addresses public health and safety.
- Non-congregate motel shelter, essential operations, and security costs are eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

Con(s):

- Potential damages incurred at the motel are not eligible for reimbursement from FEMA.

Fiscal Impact:

- The additional $274,536 in funding requested for an additional 90-day period through February 8, 2021 was previously approved by Council via Budget Ordinance Amendment # 4833 on October 27, 2020.
- No additional funding is being requested.

- Staff anticipates full FEMA reimbursement for these expenses.

Suggested Motion(s):

- Motion to adopt a resolution to authorize the City Manager's execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with RRI West Management, LLC to provide 60 rooms from November 9, 2020, through February 8, 2021 at the Red Roof Inn Asheville at a cost not to exceed $274,536.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20- _____

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RRI WEST MANAGEMENT, LLC TO SUSTAIN OPERATIONS OF A MOTEL-BASED NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented an unprecedented need for emergency shelter for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the community's existing emergency homeless shelters have been in isolation status, unable to admit new clients, the potential duration of the COVID-19 pandemic remains unknown, and there are persons in the community currently experiencing unsheltered homeless who are at grave risk for contracting COVID-19 because of age and/or underlying chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has previously executed contracts with Red Roof Inn, Incorporated, to provide 60 rooms for a non-congregate emergency shelter for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to continue this essential operation for an additional 90 days; from November 9, 2020 through February 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, internal restructuring within the Red Roof Inn organization has caused their Asheville property to be placed under a different corporate entity within the organization; and

WHEREAS, the Asheville City Council has previously authorized funding for this activity and authorized the City Manager to execute agreements to sustain these activities through February 8, 2021;

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

City Council authorizes the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with RRI West Management, LLC to continue to provide motel rooms for up to 90 days for a non-congregate motel based COVID-19 emergency homeless shelter from November 9, 2020 through February 8, 2021 for a total cost not to exceed $274,536.

Read, approved, and adopted this 8th day of December, 2020.

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CITY CLERK MAYOR

Approved As To Form:

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CITY ATTORNEY