

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Mayor and Council

AGENDA DATE: Next available agenda date-Dec. 1st 2015

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: City Representative Cortney Niland, District 8

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: District 8

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? **OR AUTHORIZE** the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and Action and establishing a collaborative work program for homeless persons similar to Albuquerque's "There a Better Way" initiative.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

1.) Create an Environment Conducive to Strong Sustainable Economic Development
1.5 Stimulate economic growth through transit integration

5.) Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication amongst All Members of the Community
5.3 Promote a well-balanced customer service philosophy throughout the organization

6.) Set the Standard for Sound Governance and Fiscal Management
6.5 Deliver services timely and effectively with focus on continual improvement
6.11 Provide efficient and effective services to taxpayers

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)



“There’s a Better Way”

**Office of City Representative Cortney
Niland- District #8**

**City Council Agenda for December
1st, 2015**



Strategic Goals

- *1. Set the Standard for a Safe and Secure City*
- *2. Promote the Visual Image of El Paso*
- *3. Enhance El Paso's Quality of Life through Recreational, Cultural and Educational Environments*
- *4. Nurture and Promote a Healthy, Sustainable Community*



Background

1. Mayor Richard Berry of Albuquerque New Mexico initiated a program to curb Panhandling & connect people to jobs.
2. Phase One included posting signage in target areas to encourage panhandlers to dial 311 that connects them to local service providers. (in their case St. Martin Hospitality Center)
3. Phase One also includes a fund rising with United Way who distributes money directly to local service providers.
4. Phase Two includes transportation with the St. Martin Hospitality Center that circulates throughout the city and offers panhandlers a job for the day; and supervised by the City of Albuquerque's Solid Waste Department for beautification efforts.
5. The workers are paid at the end of each work day by the local non-profit and than connected with social workers.



Background Continued

The project began on September 3, 2015 and will end on March 31, 2016. This is a pilot program and if successful (has reduced panhandling, provided employment and services to people experiencing homelessness) and funds are available, the Mayor will extend the program after the contract period ends.

1. The project is a \$50,000 contract with St. Martin's. The funds come from the Department of Family & Community Services mental health funds.
2. The van operates Tuesdays and Thursdays. The van begins to pick up panhandlers around 7:00 a.m.
3. St. Martin's is able to employ 5-12 people per day.

The participants are paid \$9.00 per hour cash. Equipment is provided along with a lunch.



Benefits of Policy Implementation

- “Cities typically clamp down on panhandling in shopping districts where business owners complain that panhandlers scare off customers. In Albuquerque, Mayor Berry said a bigger concern was pedestrian-related traffic fatalities.”
- Connect at risk groups to local service resources such as housing, employment, and mental health providers.



Department Sources

- Community Development
- Parks & Recreation
- Streets and Maintenance

-At the discretion of the City Manager



Community Partners

- United Way
- Rescue Mission of El Paso
- Homeless Coalition
- Salvation Army



Conclusion

Questions?