

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 05/14/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0414

LOG NAME: 35WEST 7TH DISTRICT TRAFFIC BOLLARDS MITCHELL

SUBJECT

(CD 9) Authorize Execution of a Vendor Services Agreement with Mitchell Time and Parking for Retractable Bollards and Installation in the West 7th Street Area for Traffic and Crowd Control in the Amount of \$140,524.16 with Options to Renew for the Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council authorize execution of a vendor services agreement with Mitchell Time and Parking for the purchase and installation of retractable bollards in the West 7th Street area for traffic and crowd control in the amount of \$140,524.16 with options to renew for the Police Department.

DISCUSSION:

The West 7th Entertainment District has become one of the largest districts of its type in the state of Texas. The area receives thousands of visitors on any given night, and crowds can reach 10,000 to 15,000 people. Venues in the area are bars, which frequently leads to large crowds of people who have consumed alcohol. Those circumstances may lead to increased incidents of violent and/or property crime.

As part of the comprehensive crowd management plan employed by the Police Department, certain one-way streets in the West 7th area are closed to through traffic at specific times. Closing the streets to vehicular traffic allows officers to expedite the flow of traffic out of the district and prevents incidents of "cruising." This also enables the officers to safely manage large crowds leaving the bar venues at closing time and reduces the likelihood of an intoxicated person being struck by a vehicle leaving the area.

Seven intersections need to be closed to facilitate safe crowd management. Officers are taken out of service for responding to calls when they use patrol vehicles to block the intersections. Police may have up to 25 officers assigned to the twelve city block area of the West 7th Entertainment District. In comparison, the City of Austin has approximately 35 officers on duty for an area of five city blocks.

Taking seven officers out of service to manage intersections reduces the number of officers available to answer calls by 33 percent and up to 50 percent at times. If officers in the West 7th area are not available to answer calls because they are tasked with staffing a static post for traffic control, other officers from the West Patrol would be dispatched; travel time from West Patrol to the West 7th District is 20 minutes or longer. If West Patrol officers are unavailable, the drive time for another division to come assist in the West 7th area would be even longer.

In 2023, there were 239 Part One Crimes Against Persons in the West 7th District. In 2023, 115 firearms were seized in the area by West 7th officers. Having officers available to take action immediately for Crimes Against Persons and removing firearms from streets reduces risks to citizens and is preferable to having seven officers unavailable for calls while monitoring street intersections.

Barricades similar to a "sawhorse" style have proven ineffective. The barricades may be easily moved by intoxicated individuals trying to get into the area, displaced in certain weather conditions, and they will not stop a vehicle from driving through them. Road closure devices used by Special Events/Emergency Response (SEER) are extremely heavy and other equipment must be used to move them. The SEER devices are better suited for temporary events such as the Cowtown Marathon. Placing these devices in the West 7th area each night for a few hours would require SEER to come out, place them, then return to remove them. In an emergency, Police or the Fire Department response would be delayed because they cannot be moved quickly.

This Mayor and Council Communication requests authorization to execute a vendor services agreement with Mitchell Time and Parking to provide and install 41 retractable bollards at seven strategic intersections in the West 7th area. Retractable bollards are stronger than "sawhorse" barricades and the bollards can be locked and unlocked by both Police and the Fire Department to prevent tampering or allow access as needed. The design is intended to be permanent, may be lighted or painted for visibility, and collapses back into the street when not in use.

DVIN-BE: The Police Department was approved for a Chapter 252 Exemption by the City Attorney's Office. Therefore, the business equity goal requirement is not applicable.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE ORDER: An administrative change order or increase may be made by the City Manager up to the amount allowed by relevant law and the Fort Worth City Code and does not require specific City Council approval as long as sufficient funds have been appropriated.

AGREEMENT TERM: Upon City Council's approval and execution of the Agreement by the Assistant City Manager, the initial term will expire twelve (12) months later with options to renew.

RENEWALS: The Agreement may be renewed for up to four (4) one-year renewal terms, at the City's option. This action does not require specific

City Council approval provided that the City Council has appropriated sufficient funds to satisfy the City's obligations during the renewal period.

Funding is budgeted in the CCPD Capital Projects Fund for the Police Department for the purpose of funding the PD Entertainment Dist-Bollards project, as appropriated.

The West 7th District is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 9.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies funds are available in the current capital budget, as previously appropriated, in the CCPD Capital Projects Fund for the PD Entertainment Dist-Bollards project to support the approval of the above recommendation and execution of the agreement. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Police Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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Expedited