



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager

THROUGH: Chris Brady, City Manager

DATE: January 25, 2021

RE: Agreement with East Mesa Hotel for Operation Off-the-Streets CY2021

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Mayor and City Council,

During COVID-19, the City ramped up a new program, referred to as Operation Off-the-Streets, in order to provide immediate sheltering and support for health-vulnerable populations of homeless in Mesa. The program has been successful, and Council has indicated interest in continuing the program for another full year.

The item before City Council is a request to approve a sole source agreement with one east valley hotel in order to continue leasing rooms for emergency sheltering throughout the 2021 calendar year. The cost for a full year of leasing 50 rooms for this purpose is approximately \$720,000. Funding will be provided through the Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus funds. Police security costs to ensure safety of at the hotel and surrounding areas, estimated at \$650,000, has been included in the existing Police budget.

Staff believes that leasing hotel rooms is the most expedient and cost-efficient way to provide this emergency shelter for the health and safety of vulnerable homeless populations during COVID, to create service and support infrastructure onsite at the hotel, to encourage a longer-term path to recovery for participating individuals and families, and to provide a way for the City to help one of our Mesa hotels that has financially struggled during the pandemic.

If Council has questions about this arrangement, please feel free to contact me directly. Thank you.