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# **NEWPORT BEACH**

## **City Council Staff Report**

November 30, 2021  
Agenda Item No. 23

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Grace K. Leung, City Manager - 949-644-3001,  
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**TITLE:** Budget Amendment to Allocate Funding for Government Relations  
Consulting Services

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**ABSTRACT:**

At its November 16, 2021 meeting, the Newport Beach City Council unanimously supported, via a straw poll, staff returning to the City Council with an item for its consideration that would allocate funding for retaining a firm to provide government relations services and represent the City of Newport Beach (City) regarding laws, rules and regulations related to residential care facilities.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Approve Budget Amendment No. 22-029 in the amount of \$50,000 and appropriate to the City Council's Professional Services budget to fund government relations consultant services for matters related to group residential uses.

**DISCUSSION:**

In recent months, residents have attended City Council meetings and relayed their concerns over the operation of certain sober living homes, group homes, and state-licensed residential care facilities in Newport Beach. The City Council responded by forming an Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) comprised of Council Members Joy Brenner, Diane Dixon and Duffy Duffield to work through the issues identified with the community and staff.

Among its responsibilities, the Committee is to recommend legislative policies and positions regarding state and federal laws related to the regulation of residential care facilities.

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Muldoon, at its November 16, 2021 meeting, the City Council considered placing an item on a future Council agenda that, if approved, would allocate funding for retaining a firm to provide government relations services to represent the City regarding laws, rules and regulations related to residential care facilities. The City Council unanimously supported, via a straw poll, staff bringing this item forward for the Council's consideration.

If approved, staff will commence the consultant selection process.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Staff estimates the cost of a one-year agreement for issue-specific government relations consulting services would be up to \$50,000. The actual cost may be lower due to a shortened schedule (less than one year) or favorable bids. Funding will be appropriated from the General Fund unallocated reserve.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

**NOTICING:**

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment A – Budget Amendment No. 22-029