



Council Agenda Report

Item 6d

Department: Administration
Cost Center: 1010
For Agenda of: 5/17/2022
Placement: Business
Estimated Time: 10 Minutes

FROM: Derek Johnson, City Manager
Prepared By: Beya Makekau, DEI Manager

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE A MOU BETWEEN THE CITY & CAL POLY TO ESTABLISH COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO ADVANCE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES WITHIN THE CITY

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between Cal Poly Office of University Diversity and Inclusion and the City of San Luis Obispo regarding the establishment of collaborative efforts to advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives within the city.

DISCUSSION

Background

In 2020, City Council passed a resolution approving the creation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force (DEI-TF) which included in its charge to provide insight on advancing DEI in San Luis Obispo and the support and implementation of \$150,000 in DEI high impact grants. Council accepted the DEI-TF recommendations on January 12, 2021, which included the recommendation to leverage partnerships with Cal Poly to enhance DEI programs in the community at large. The City also adopted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) major city goal with its 2021-23 Financial Plan which included a robust workplan, the creation of a DEI office, and an inaugural DEI Manager position for the City. The workplan includes expanded collaboration with Cal Poly's Office of University Diversity and Inclusion regarding the intersections of community and student experiences in the City and on campus.

Additionally, Cal Poly adopted a diversity statement that includes the following: "we encourage our students, faculty, and staff to seek out opportunities to engage with others who are both similar and different from them, thereby increasing their capacity for knowledge, empathy, and conscious participation in local and global communities". In 2019, Cal Poly's CPX data also resulted in a recommendation to engage with the San Luis Obispo community and identify three to five top strategies to create a more inclusive experience on campus and in the SLO community.

The proposed MOU establishes the partnership between Cal Poly's Office of University Diversity and Inclusion and the City of San Luis Obispo to contribute to programs and initiatives that foster a San Luis Obispo that is welcoming, inclusive, and equitable. Efforts will be made to lay the groundwork to include Cuesta college in this effort in the future. More specifically the MOU commits both the City to collaborate, coordinate and work on a variety of programs and projects that will address structural inequities and advance welcoming and belonging for all residents and students both on and off campus.

Previous Council or Advisory Body Action

Council accepted the DEI Task Force recommendation on January 12, 2021, which included specific recommendations for expanding partnerships with Cal Poly on DEI initiatives. Council also approved the FY22-23 DEI Major City Goal which includes work plan section 2.6 that specifically requires the implementation of several items listed in the memorandum of understanding.

Public Engagement

This item is scheduled for the May 17, 2022 City Council meeting and will follow all required postings and notifications. The public may provide comment on this item at or before the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the recommended action in this report, because the action does not constitute a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15378.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: Yes

Budget Year: 2021-22

Funding Identified: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund	\$ N/A	\$	\$	\$
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$	\$	\$	\$

Because no additional staff work is anticipated as a result of this memorandum, no new fiscal impact will be incurred. Funding for projects that will be in collaboration with Cal Poly outlined in the memorandum have been allocated for in the current budget due to DEI Major City Goal. Annual appropriation for the DEI program will be included in the City's budgetary process and adoption.

ALTERNATIVES

1. ***Council could decide not to approve the MOU between Cal Poly and the City.***
This action is not recommended by staff because intentional collaboration with Cal Poly has been outlined in the major city goal workplan and is reflective of a collective need for more intentional efforts to advance DEI in our community.
2. ***Council could direct staff to amend the "MOU" to more accurately reflect the Council's position on the issue.***

ATTACHMENT

A - Draft MOU between the City and Cal Poly Office of University Diversity and Inclusion.