

PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL

REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS

**FROM JON M. GUTZMANN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

REGARDING ACOP Budget and
Contract for FY 2022;
ACOP Year 31

DATE February 24, 2021

Staff requests Board approval to contract with the City of Saint Paul, through its Police Department (SPPD), for Year 31 of community policing services under ACOP (A Community Outreach Program) beginning April 1, 2021 and continuing until March 31, 2022, based on the attached proposed budget. Under the recommended one-year contract the PHA will pay SPPD an amount that will not exceed \$654,640. This reflects a 1.1% increase from Fiscal Year 2021, due entirely to police officers' salary negotiated by the SPPD and the union. Under the current ACOP contract and the recommended FY 2022 contract, the PHA will pay the actual salary of the officers assigned to ACOP, subject to the total contract limit stated above.

Other than the salary, the terms and conditions of the proposed contract remain unchanged from the current contract. The PHA agrees to pay the salaries for six officers and two Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), and also \$1,500 for related supplies and miscellaneous expenses. The City agrees to pay the salaries for the police sergeant and three other officers; and pay the benefits and any overtime for the sergeant, all nine officers and the two CLOs; and provide squad cars and other equipment for use by the ACOP unit. With the Board's approval, the contract will be sent to the City Council for their approval.

ACOP is a community policing partnership program involving the City of Saint Paul, the Saint Paul Police Department, the PHA and public housing residents. The goals of the program are to improve the social conditions which foster drug use and abuse at the public housing sites,

improve the level of trust and general relations between the residents and the Saint Paul Police Department, improve the delivery of police services to the community, and empower residents to be active in community safety issues. The main ACOP office is in the McDonough Community Center.

ACOP began in 1991 with a special HUD grant under the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP). The PHA received PHDEP grants almost every year until 2002, when Congress stopped providing special funding for the program. At the time HUD officials said that PHAs could continue PHDEP-funded programs in their budgets, but neither HUD nor Congress provided any more money in operating subsidies. At the urging of staff and residents, the PHA Board committed to keep funding ACOP at a reduced level after the PHDEP grants ended.

The ACOP officers provide invaluable services to the PHA and its residents. ACOP officers primarily serve the PHA's four family sites (McDonough, Roosevelt, Mt. Airy and Dunedin) and sixteen hi-rises. The ACOP officers respond to emergencies and reports of suspicious behavior, intruders and criminal activity; provide consistent monitoring and resolution of conflicts between residents, especially youth; mentor and serve as role models for youth; and respond to special circumstances.

Sufficient funds will be recommended for approval in the FY 2022 Operating Budgets for this contract.

JMG/KNG/KT

Attachment: ACOP Budget for FY 2022
History of ACOP Funding
ACOP Contract