



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 26, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Tanya Bustamante, Interim Deputy Director, Health, Housing, and
Community Services
Subject: Contract for Health Officer Coverage

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute a contract with Dr. Gail Newel for Health Officer services during periods when the City Health Officer is out of the office for the period May 1, 2024 through May 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Costs for Health Officer coverage will be paid for by the Future of Public Health grant (Fund 302). Payment will be \$50 per hour/\$1,200 per day for approximately 25 days per year. Annual costs are not to exceed \$30,000.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley receives funding from the California Department of Public Health through the Future of Public Health grant. The funding requires each local health jurisdiction to have Health Officer on-call coverage at all times. The City of Berkeley currently has no plan for coverage when the City Health Officer is out of the office.

BACKGROUND

Most public health jurisdictions have on-call Health Officer coverage to address urgent communicable disease and other public health issues. Additionally, this coverage is required by the Future of Public Health grant. Dr. Newel is an experienced Health Officer who served in Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. The City Council is asked to approve Health Officer coverage, as Council also approves appointment of an Interim or Permanent Health Officer.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Health Officer coverage is required by the Future of Public Health grant, and may be needed if urgent public health issues arise.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could continue to have periodic gaps in Health Officer coverage when the Health Officer is unavailable.

CONTACT PERSON

Anju Goel, MD, MPH, Health Officer, HHCS, 510-981-5292

Attachment:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: DR. GAIL NEWEL FOR HEALTH OFFICER SERVICES DURING PERIODS WHEN THE CITY HEALTH OFFICER IS OUT OF OFFICE

WHEREAS, most public health jurisdictions have on-call Health Officer coverage to address urgent communicable disease and other public health issues; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley receives funding from the California Department of Public Health through the Future of Public Health grant, which requires each local health jurisdiction to have Health Officer coverage at all times; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newel is an experienced Health Officer who has served in Santa Cruz and San Benito counties, and who is willing to provide coverage for the City of Berkeley; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to execute a contract and any amendments with Dr. Gail Newel from May 1, 2024 to May 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

