



AGENDA REPORT

Department: Library and Community Services
Prepared by: Joyce Ryan, Library & Community Services Director
Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023
Approved by: Armando Vergara, Acting City Manager

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Agreement Between the City of National City and Invicta Security CA Corporation dba Allstate Security

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement between the City of National City and Invicta Security CA Corporation dba Allstate Security in the amount not-to-exceed \$75,000 for the purposes of providing security guard service at the National City Public Library from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024."

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE PRIOR ACTION:

Approved by the Board of Library Trustees at the May 3, 2023 meeting.

EXPLANATION:

On June 18, 2019, City Council approved an agreement between the City of National City and Allstate Security. The contract piggybacked on the San Diego RFP that had been issued in 2018 and subsequently awarded in May 2019 to Allstate Security. Amendments to the agreement of one year each were granted in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, staff discovered that the company had been purchased and was no longer designated by the Attorney General as a corporation in California as Allstate Security. The City Attorney at that time requested a new agreement to reflect the new business owner. Staff created an agreement with Invicta Security for the period of one year only for a not-to-exceed cost of \$40,000, anticipating that hourly needs would change in subsequent years. In August 2022, the Library expanded its hours and security guard coverage is currently only utilized for a portion of its operating hours. The new agreement at a not-to-exceed cost of \$75,000 allows for greater hourly coverage and an increased hourly rate, based on market changes. This agreement is for one year, allowing the City Manager to execute up to four one-year extensions with each extension not-to-exceed the amount of \$75,000 for each one-year term.

Costs for unarmed security guards have risen steeply within the past three years. Since 2019, the City of San Diego has contracted with Invicta Security dba Allstate to provide armed and unarmed security guard service at its libraries, including Central Library. However, the original 2019 contracted unarmed security guard hourly rate of \$19.49 was established before the market significantly changed. In January 2023, the City of San Diego approved its second hourly rate increase for security guards, increasing the City's overall budget for the service by \$4 million and increasing the hourly rate of its guard service to \$29.47 for unarmed security guards.¹ (The

¹ "Downtown San Diego Library may get more security guards, naloxone in effort to curb overdoses, suicide attempts." San Diego Union Tribune. December 15, 2022. <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/politics/story/2022-12-15/central-library-security-guards-naloxone>. Accessed March 20, 2023.

amendment approving the increase in hourly rates is attached as an exhibit for reference.) This is the rate at which we will receive services through Invicta Security for FY24. A survey of local security guard agencies reflect similar annual costs. The market rate for security services has risen due to factors such as increased homelessness in the area, inflation increases, and the need for guards who are suitably trained in naloxone administration. Staff recommend staying with the current service as they have a proven track record with the cities of National City and San Diego. In addition, this current rate provides National City Public Library with unarmed security guards who are trained in administering naloxone (otherwise known as Narcan®) to counteract opioid overdose symptoms. Many libraries in California have Naloxone on hand to utilize for these challenging situations and it is available to libraries for free from the State Department of Health Care Services.²

Libraries are the last great meeting places in the community. Patrons are welcome to enjoy the facility and can stay for hours at a time perusing materials or studying. However, libraries are not without challenges. San Diego Public Library had experienced a number of concerning issues that prompted the use of security guards. National City Public Library experiences a documented incident approximately every two weeks. The National City Police Department has been called to the facility during operating hours 21 times since July 1, 2022. These calls run the gamut from support for paramedics called to a health emergency to taking staff or citizen reports. The use of unarmed security guards typically supports staff in challenging situations that do not rise to the level of police involvement.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The increased cost for security guard services will be included in the proposed fiscal year 2023-2024 annual Library budget under contract services.

RELATED CITY COUNCIL 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Parks, Recreation and Library

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

This is not a project under CEQA and is therefore not subject to environmental review.CCR15378; PRC 21065.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

Agenda Report posted within 72 hours of meeting date and time in accordance with Brown Act.

ORDINANCE:

Not Applicable

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit A - Standard Agreement - Invicta Security CA Corporation dba Allstate Security - Final
Exhibit B - City of San Diego R-314568

² “L.A. County libraries could soon supply naloxone for reversing overdoses.”
Los Angeles Times. October 18, 2022.
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-10-18/los-angeles-county-libraries-narcan-naloxone-for-overdoses#:~:text=Los%20Angeles%20County%20libraries%20could,by%20the%20Board%20of%20Supervisors>. Accessed March 21, 2023.

Exhibit C - Resoluitiion