



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5740
September 1, 2020
Consent Calendar

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| TITLE: | AB 5740 2020-2021 Interlocal Agreement with the Mercer Island School District for School-Based Counseling Services. | <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: |
| RECOMMENDED ACTION: | Authorize the City Manager to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the Mercer Island School District for counseling services during the 2020-2021 school year. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------|-------------|
| DEPARTMENT: | Youth and Family Services | | |
| STAFF: | Derek Franklin, Senior Program Manager and Clinical Supervisor | | |
| COUNCIL LIAISON: | Wendy Weiker | Salim Nice | Lisa Anderl |
| EXHIBITS: | 1. 2020-2021 Interlocal Agreement for School Counseling Services | | |
| CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY: | n/a | | |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE | \$ 459,568 |
| AMOUNT BUDGETED | \$ 459,568 |
| APPROPRIATION REQUIRED | \$ n/a |

SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Interlocal Agreement authorizes the City of Mercer Island (City) and the Mercer Island School District (District) to cooperatively provide comprehensive counseling services to the students. The City will provide the equivalent of seven (7) counselors from YFS to perform services at District facilities and/or through virtual platforms. After January 1, 2021, the number of counseling professionals and corresponding services provided by the City, are contingent on receipt of sufficient revenues by the City to pay for them.

BACKGROUND

Since 1979, Youth and Family Services (YFS) has maintained a partnership with the Mercer Island School District whereby YFS has placed mental health counselors in each of the District's schools. This model allows for collaborative counseling programs in the four elementary schools, the middle school, and the high school to include the Crest Learning Center.

In July, the YFS Working Group held two meetings to discuss short-term funding scenarios and recommended that the City Council accept \$102,600 from the YFS Foundation to restore services through the end of 2020.

The YFS Working Group further recommended that the balance of the YFS Foundation's donation be held for use in the 2021-2022 biennium to stabilize YFS Department services given the ongoing financial uncertainty related to impacts of the Pandemic (see [AB 5727](#)).

The proposed Interlocal Agreement (see Exhibit 1) reflects an annual payment of \$60,000 from the District to support seven mental health and drug and alcohol school-based counseling professionals from YFS. Given the current budget challenges, each counselor will provide services for 32 hours per week rather than 40 hours per week as in previous years. The staffing mix for the 2020-2021 school year will include seven counselors (see table), and the potential for additional graduate-level interns who may account for an equivalent of an additional 0.5 FTE. There are no other substantive changes in this year's agreement regarding the provision of services other than the reduced hours for each counselor, and the recognition that the provision of counseling services is contingent on there being sufficient revenues to support these services.

The personnel salary figures below were adjusted to reflect the reduced hours and budgeted amounts for the 2020-2021 school calendar year.

| 2020-2021 ESTIMATE (at 32 hours/week): | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | City Share | District Share | Total |
| 4 Elementary School Counselors | 233,352.00 | 60,000.00 | 293,352.00 |
| 1 Middle School Counselor | 78,625.00 | - | 78,625.00 |
| 1 High School Drug/Alcohol Specialist | 73,798.00 | - | 73,798.00 |
| 1 High School Counselor | 70,877.00 | - | 70,877.00 |
| Tuition & Registrations | 2,400.00 | - | 2,400.00 |
| | 459,052.00 | 60,000.00 | 519,052.00 |

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the Mercer Island School District for counseling services during the 2020-2021 school year.