



Agenda Report

Fullerton City Council

MEETING DATE: JUNE 15, 2021

TO: CITY COUNCIL / SUCCESSOR AGENCY

SUBMITTED BY: STEVE DANLEY, ACTING CITY MANAGER

PREPARED BY: ADAM LOESER, FIRE CHIEF

SUBJECT: CONTINUED USE OF ANAHEIM FIRE INVESTIGATION SERVICES

SUMMARY

The Fullerton Fire Department requests authorization to continue utilizing the City of Anaheim's standard fire investigations services,

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize City Manager to execute an estimated \$7,500 agreement with City of Anaheim for continued use of its fire investigation services for FY 2021-22.

PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENT

This item matches the following Priority Policy Statements:

- Fiscal and Organizational Stability
- Public Safety.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 2021-22 budget includes the \$7,500 cost for the City of Anaheim's fire investigation services.

DISCUSSION

The California Fire Code requires the Fullerton Fire Department to investigate fires within its jurisdiction as the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). When a fire agency cannot conduct the investigation, the AHJ may seek out other public agencies to assist in determining the cause and origin and pursue any related criminal follow-up as necessary. Fire investigation ultimately provides for increased community risk reduction,

improved freighting tactics, heightened public awareness, more focused prevention efforts and reduced fire related criminal activity.

The Fullerton Fire Department (FFD) has not had a Fire / Arson Investigation program for approximately ten years due to past labor disputes. As is routine for the Orange County Operational Area, the FFD utilizes the specialties of its OC partner agencies to accomplish its services as necessary. Although the FFD has utilized the fire investigation services of Anaheim Fire and Rescue for many years, the FFD seeks to formalize the services and associated costs through a contract at the present time. As Fullerton's neighboring city, Anaheim receives the first call for these services. Based on historical analysis, the FFD does not anticipate exceeding an annual expenditure of \$7,500. During any fire investigation, the Fullerton Fire Chief and Fire Marshal remain the primary lead over the incident and work with Anaheim investigators throughout the investigation.

The FFD may consider re-establishing its own Arson / Fire Investigation unit in the future. In the event FFD re-establishes its own investigation unit, the City may require Anaheim Fire and Rescue's investigation services on a very limited basis when exigent or unusual circumstances exist. A potential FFD investigation unit would be self-sustaining and include criminal follow up, which Anaheim Fire and Rescue does not provide to the FFD without Fullerton PD.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Fire Investigation Services Agreement