

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE and BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEES' REPORT relative to increasing the reimbursement rate for forensic evidentiary examinations.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. AUTHORIZE and INSTRUCT the City Personnel Department to:
 - a. Increase the reimbursement rate for all completed sexual assault and child abuse victim forensic examinations from \$730 to \$1,020 per exam.
 - b. Increase the reimbursement rate for all suspect forensic examinations from \$200 to \$1,020 per exam.
 - c. Increase the reimbursement rate for incomplete forensic examinations from \$200 to \$300 per exam.
2. INSTRUCT that the reimbursement rates for all forensic sexual assault and child abuse evidentiary examinations to be adjusted annually beginning in 2019-20 by the lesser of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care in the West Urban Area for the preceding 12 months or three percent, unless the CPI declines, in which case the rate shall remain unchanged.
3. INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer (CAO), with the assistance of the City Personnel Department, to monitor the fiscal impact of the revised reimbursement rate and to report to Council as part of the Financial Status Report (FSR) on ways to address any account shortages resulting from the revised reimbursement rate.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The CAO reports that approval of the proposed increase to reimbursement rates for forensic evidentiary examinations is forecasted to increase annual expenditures by approximately \$2.35 million resulting in a projected total annual expenditure of \$3.75 million. The General Fund impact of this increased cost in 2018-19 is anticipated to be \$1.37 million. The City Personnel Department is directed to monitor its Contractual Services account and report any shortages in future FSRs which may include requests for additional General Fund appropriations to support the proposed reimbursement rates. The source of the additional General Fund appropriations in 2018-19 will need to be identified in a future FSR and may include the Reserve Fund if no other sources are available.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On November 21, 2018, the Personnel and Animal Welfare (PAW) Committee considered a November 2, 2018 CAO report relative to increasing the reimbursement rate for forensic evidentiary examinations. According to the CAO, California Penal Code 13823.95 requires local governments to reimburse medical centers for sexual assault evidentiary exams, although it does not specify an amount. The City Personnel Department currently remits payment on behalf of the City for these evidentiary exams to Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Centers based on

rates approved by Council on April 25, 2001 (Council File No. 01-0682). The current reimbursement rates provide \$730 for victim exams and \$200 for suspect in custody exams. Total payments to SART Centers in Fiscal Years 2016-17 and 2017-18 were \$1.45million and \$1.52 million, respectively. Adjusting the City's reimbursement rates to be aligned with the LA County will increase the exam amounts from \$730 to \$1,020 for victims of sexual assault and child abuse, from \$200 to\$1,020 for suspects/in custody, and from \$200 to \$300 for incomplete examinations. The2018-19 Adopted Budget includes \$1.4 million for all exam reimbursements. Approval of the proposed reimbursement rates is anticipated to result in a total cost of approximately\$3.75 million resulting in an additional annual expenditure of approximately \$2.35 million. Assuming Council approval of the proposed rate increase by the end of November 2018, the estimated 2018-19 budget shortfall is \$1.37 million. The Personnel Department is directed to monitor its Contractual Services account and report any shortages in future FSRs which may include requests for additional General Fund appropriations to support the proposed reimbursement rates. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for Council action, the PAW Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the CAO report and detailed in the above recommendations. Subsequently, on December 3, 2018, the Budget and Finance Committee also considered the CAO report and concurred with the PAW Committee. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration .

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KORETZ:	YES
PRICE:	YES
ENGLANDER:	ABSENT

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KREKORIAN:	YES
ENGLANDER:	ABSENT
KORETZ:	YES
BLUMENFIELD:	ABSENT
BONIN:	YES

ARL 12/3/18

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-