

City of Fayetteville Staff Review Form

2021-0302

Legistar File ID

5/4/2021

City Council Meeting Date - Agenda Item Only
N/A for Non-Agenda Item

Susan Norton

4/15/2021

MAYORS ADMIN (015)

Submitted By

Submitted Date

Division / Department

Action Recommendation:

Resolution to provide public notice that the City Council is considering the sale to the nonprofit Peace at Home Family Shelter, Inc. of about four acres of land which adjoins its current shelter.

Budget Impact:

Account Number	Fund
Project Number	Project Title
Budgeted Item? <u>NA</u>	Current Budget \$ -
	Funds Obligated \$ -
	Current Balance \$ -
Does item have a cost? <u>No</u>	Item Cost
Budget Adjustment Attached? <u>No</u>	Budget Adjustment
	Remaining Budget \$ -

V20180321

Purchase Order Number: _____

Previous Ordinance or Resolution # _____

Change Order Number: _____

Approval Date: _____

Original Contract Number: _____

Comments:



MEETING OF [MONTH, DAY YEAR]

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Susan Norton, Chief of Staff

DATE: 4/15/21

SUBJECT: Resolution of Intent to sell land to Peace at Home Family Shelter, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Mayor Jordan recommends the City Council approve a resolution to provide public notice that the City Council is considering the sale to the nonprofit Peace at Home Family Shelter, Inc., of about four acres of land which adjoins its current shelter.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Fayetteville has long appreciated and supported the efforts of the nonprofit Peace at Home Family Shelter as a service that provides vital accommodations for victims of family violence and domestic abuse. On January 4, 2005, the City Council approved the initial sale of 1.5 acres of land for the construction of a new shelter east of Highway 265 on Ivy Lane for \$30,000 (Ordinance 4670). The City also leased additional land as a buffer zone for increased privacy and security and for a temporary septic system area. Peace at Home moved into this facility in 2008.

DISCUSSION:

Over the last 12 years, the Peace at Home program has grown to address the needs of domestic violence survivors and their children, growing from 12 staff members with an annual budget of less than \$800,000 to a 35 member team with an annual budget of over \$2,500,000. Services have expanded to include a rapid rehousing team to help families obtain and pay for safe new housing, bilingual therapeutic services, and a children's program to address their unique needs. The Shelter now works with over 1,000 families seeking support from domestic violence annually.

The Shelter has now outgrown the existing building and office space and currently operates a waiting list for emergency safe shelter, with approximately 30% of the requests for emergency shelter going unmet. The Shelter is proposing to purchase 4 acres of city land for an expansion which will include more capacity for beds and baths, additional parking, and the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary to be constructed in memory of one of its biggest supporters, in order to provide a safe space for families staying at the shelter to house their pets. The sale price would be the same as the City previously authorized in 2005 - \$20,000 per acre, in acknowledgement of the vital services performed by the Shelter.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:
NA

Attachments:
Peace at Home Family Shelter 2025 Vision



Peace at Home Family Shelter

Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary Vision

Safe Haven for Pets in Shelter

It is not safe for animals in domestic violence households. Animal abuse both correlates highly with domestic violence and is a known tactic of domestic violence. Nearly 30% of domestic violence survivors will delay leaving a dangerous situation if they are unable to take their animals with them. And with good reason. Domestic batterers will often harm beloved pets as punishment especially if they are left behind. Survivors of domestic violence need a safe place for themselves and their pets when escaping violence.

Currently the Peace at Home Family Shelter is not equipped to regularly have pets in shelter. A space is needed so that the health and welfare of family pets can be assured while still keeping a safe space for all residents of the emergency shelter.

Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary

The Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary will be constructed in loving memory of community advocate, animal lover, and Peace at Home supporter, Candy Clark. This building will provide a safe space for families staying at the shelter to house their beloved pets. With the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary, families will be near their pets and able to see them and care for them every day. It would also allow the pets to be close to their families, but safely separated from the other families in shelter who may have pet allergies or be uncomfortable around animals.

The Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary will make leaving domestic violence safer for our community members and their pets, but it cannot be built on our current site without additional land. It is important that the land the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary is built on is near the emergency shelter so that families can easily walk to care for and play with their pets every single day.

Construction

According to estimates obtained from a construction company, building a pet sanctuary that would safely house up to 6 dogs and up to 4 cats would cost approximately \$550,000 and require additional land adjacent to the emergency shelter. In addition to construction costs, the kennel would require start-up equipment and supplies such as food, cleaning supplies, care and grooming materials, and a basic veterinary setup. Total initial costs excluding the value of land are estimated to be about \$600,000. We have already secured a lead gift for this project and many smaller gifts.

Ongoing Needs

Once established, the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary would require some ongoing operational support to care for pets on an ongoing basis. A part-time kennel manager would be needed to oversee the



Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary and ensure all animals are appropriately cared for. Food and supplies would be required as well as some veterinary care expenses. We anticipate ongoing expenses for the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary to total \$25,000 per year, though this figure will likely increase annually with inflation. A generous donor has already committed to covering these ongoing operational expenses in perpetuity.

Ongoing Partnerships

For families with pets to receive the best care while staying at Peace at Home Family Shelter and the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary, strong partnerships with a veterinarian and other animal organizations will be critical. Peace at Home Family Shelter has developed relationships with several area animal hospitals, but would welcome recommendations on organizations and businesses as potential animal care partners.

Operations

Peace at Home Family Shelter's policies and procedures would be updated to reflect the addition of the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary. Peace at Home will utilize the Sheltering Animals and Families Together (SAF-T) manual as a guide for adjusting operations as needed. This guide was specifically designed to help domestic violence programs incorporate safe pet shelter into their emergency shelter programs.

Vision

The vision of the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary is to make it possible for families to safely flee domestic violence with all of their family members, including their animals. This program will give families peace of mind. It will keep survivors of domestic violence and the animals they love safe.

Land Request

Peace at Home is requesting to lease four acres from the City of Fayetteville to build the Candy Clark Pet Sanctuary. The City of Springdale has agreed to support the water and sewer needs for the project.