

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 19, 2021

**TO:** THOMAS C. ESQUEDA, City Manager  
City Manager's Office

**FROM:** MICHAEL CARBAJAL,  Director  
Department of Public Utilities

**SUBJECT:** FINDING NEIGHBORHOOD INDUSTRIES, INC., IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO OPERATE A LITTER ABATEMENT AND ALLEY WAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IN THE TOWER DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WILL EMPLOY PEOPLE LIVING IN NEIGHBORHOODS OF CONCENTRATED POVERTY

**Background**

The purpose of this memorandum is to request City Manager approval for a uniquely qualified vendor to operate a litter abatement and alley way maintenance program in the Tower District Neighborhood that will employ people living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty.

The City is grappling with a growing problem related to the illegal dumping of trash, furniture, appliances, and construction debris on public streets, vacant lots, and alley ways. Illegal dumping creates health and safety issues, spreads blight, and the cost of removal is a financial burden on the City and local taxpayers. The City currently utilizes a complaint based approach to cleaning up illegal dumping sites, as well as implementing a citywide "Operation Clean-Up" program where City crews go to neighborhoods once a year to collect bulky items, trash, and green waste. Despite the City's efforts, illegal dumping persists, and has been increasing in recent years.

To address this problem, the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is looking to expand services by partnering with Neighborhood Industries, Inc., to operate a twelve-month litter abatement and alley way maintenance program in the Tower District Neighborhood. Neighborhood Industries is a local nonprofit that focuses on revealing value in people so they can be positive contributors in their homes and neighborhoods. Neighborhood Industries carries out this work at its social enterprises, creating employment training and job opportunities for people facing barriers to employment. Over the course of its 13 years of operation, Neighborhood Industries has established

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itself as a local and regional leader in workforce development, social enterprise, and neighborhood enrichment.

Neighborhood Industries will remove litter and conduct routine pressure washing of sidewalks along Olive Avenue, Van Ness Avenue, Wishon Avenue, and Fulton Street. The alley way maintenance program will include bi-annual removal of litter and vegetation to all alley ways bounded by Blackstone Avenue, Weber Avenue, McKinley Avenue, and Belmont Avenue. The proposed program will create social impact through the employment of individuals experiencing homelessness, the precariously housed, and people living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty.


**Cost**

The proposed annual fee from the vendor for these services is \$125,000.

**Recommendation**

DPU is requesting City Manager agreement that Neighborhood Industries is uniquely qualified to operate a litter abatement and alley way maintenance program that will employ people living in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. DPU will seek Council award of a vendor agreement to Neighborhood Industries in the amount of \$125,000.

☒ Approved ☐ Denied

  
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Thomas C. Esqueda, City Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

c: Su Fang, Solid Waste Manager – Solid Waste Management Division