

September 15, 2020

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject:**

**Approval of, and Authorization for the Health Care Agency Director or Designee to Sign, a Contract with Black Knight Patrol, Inc. for Security Services at the Health Care Agency One Stop/Care Pods Events, Effective September 15, 2020 Through June 30, 2021, and Authorization for the Health Care Agency Director or Designee to Extend the Term of the Contract for Up to Two Additional Fiscal Years Thereafter, in a Maximum Amount of \$25,000 per Contract Year.**

**Recommendation:**

That your Board approve, and authorize the Health Care Agency (HCA) Director or designee to sign, a contract with Black Knight Patrol, Inc. (Black Knight Patrol) for security services at the HCA One Stop/Care Pods events, effective September 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021, and authorization for the HCA Director or designee to extend the term of the contract for up to two additional fiscal years thereafter, in a maximum amount of \$25,000 per contract year.

**VCMC Fiscal Impact:**

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	VCMC Operating Revenues/Collections/ General Fund
Funding Match Required:	None
Impact on Other Departments:	NA

Summary of Annual Revenues and Costs under this agreement:

	<u>FY2020-21</u>	<u>FY2021-22</u>
REVENUE:	\$25,000	\$25,000
DIRECT COSTS:	\$25,000	\$25,000
INDIRECT COSTS:	Minor	Minor
Net Revenue <cost>	\$0	\$0

**Current Year Fiscal Budget**

<b>Current FY 2020-21 Budget Projections for Ventura County Medical Center #3300</b>				
	<b>Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Actual</b>	<b>Estimated (Savings/Deficit)</b>
Expenditures	\$523,626,081	\$523,626,081	\$523,626,081	\$0
Revenue	\$540,682,161	\$540,682,161	\$540,682,161	\$0
Operational Income/(Loss)	\$17,056,080	\$17,056,080	\$17,056,080	\$0

\* Revenue and appropriations are included in the FY20-21 recommended budget. The operational income includes "Operating Transfers In" that is primarily attributed to County contributions.

**Discussion:**

The Ventura County Office of Emergency Services has executed a separate contract with Black Knight Patrol exceeding \$200,000 for services. Security services provided under the attached new contract will only be used by HCA for One Stop/Care Pods events.

One Stop/Care Pods events are an HCA strategy to engage homeless persons in locations where they live or congregate. The goal is to provide a continuum of needed services all in one location, such as basic health care and mental health, substance use, communicable disease prevention, hygiene, and social services. One Stops reach patients with many barriers to services or care and help to provide a path to greater stability.

The River Haven One Stop/Care Pods event typically serves 40-50 people during a weekly three-hour event. Services have continued during the COVID-19 local health emergency to serve as a resource to some of Ventura County's most vulnerable residents. Staff training and social distancing protocols help to limit risk of exposure.

Adjacent to the River Haven service site is an encampment of 100-200 persons living outdoors on the ground, in tents, or in makeshift dwellings. Clients frequently struggle

with mental health or substance use conditions. Weapons are prohibited at the site, though clients are sometimes found to carry items such as axes or machetes to clear brush and provide protection. Security incidents are infrequent but typically involve verbal aggression towards staff or in rare cases altercations between clients or between clients and persons passing by. Staff are trained in working with persons with mental health conditions or substance use disorders and in de-escalation techniques but need to balance service provision and intervention when incidents do occur. Security service is required to provide a safe and welcoming service environment freeing staff to focus on high quality service provision.

Black Knight Patrol will provide uniformed armed guard service at HCA's River Haven One Stop/Care Pod site, as well as new One Stop/Care Pod sites as they become available. The assigned guard will patrol the immediate environment, maintain situational awareness, and will observe and intervene in problem behaviors before they escalate to ensure staff and client safety. S/he will intervene when a client presents a disturbance or risk to self or others and will engage other appropriate resources (law enforcement, EMS) when needed. The assigned guard will advise staff on potential safety risks at the site and will submit a report of any client engagement at the end of each shift.

Black Knight Patrol provided 24-7 security services at hotel sites serving the homeless population during the local health emergency. Guards provided a highly professional service and worked well with the client population presenting many of the same concerns identified at One Stop Care Pods sites.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, Auditor-Controller's Office, and General Services Agency Procurement Services. If you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please contact William T. Foley, HCA Director, at 805-677-5272.



William T. Foley  
Health Care Agency Director

Exhibit

Exhibit 1 – Black Knight Patrol, Inc. Contract

