

Council to mull animal rules

Sun-News report

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For more information on animal adoptions, click [here](#).

LAS CRUCES - An ordinance that would allow the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley to conduct animal adoption events at the twice weekly Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market will be considered by the Las Cruces City Council when it meets at 1 p.m. Monday at City Hall.

City ordinance now prevents people and governmental agencies from selling animals in public places and at events on city property.

The ordinance to be considered by the council would allow the animal shelter to offer animals for adoption on public property, as well as allow shelter representatives to attend the market more than once a month,

Also at Monday's meeting, the council will consider a resolution that would approve formal agreements with eight nonprofit agencies that would provide Community Development Block Grant public services to the city. Those agencies include Casa de Peregrinos, Community Action Agency, which would offer two public programs; Families and Youth Inc., Jard'n de los Ni-os, La Casa Inc., Mesilla Valley CASA Inc. and Mesilla Valley Community of Hope.

The eight agreements would provide a combined \$160,000 in services to needy Las Cruces families. A breakdown of the funding shows \$11,876 going to Casa de Peregrinos' food pantry; \$10,276 to the Community Action Agency to provide senior therapeutic meals and \$11,876 for the agency's Teen Parent Program; \$21,876 for an adolescent shelter operated by Families and Youth Inc.; \$13,876 to fund on-site medical services at Jard'n de los Ni-os; \$36,068 for emergency shelter services at La Casa, the city's domestic violence shelter; \$20,0276 for volunteer development at Mesilla Valley CASA, Inc., and \$33,876 to help pay for homeless services offered at Mesilla Valley Community of Hope.

The council will also consider a resolution approving a HOME program agreement between the city and Tierra del Sol Housing Corp. for direct down payment assistance of affordable housing units. The National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 created the HOME Investment Partnerships Act. The city receives \$55,789 in federal funding that can be used to help first-time homebuyers with down payments on affordable housing.

"The funding to be provided to the homeowners will be divided among 11 households with 10 households each receiving \$5,000 and one household receiving \$5,789 in direct down-payment assistance," part of an executive summary and council action form said. "These down-payment subsidies will be very beneficial in helping the different households qualify for their permanent mortgages with a private lender and meeting their down-payment requirements. Direct down-payment assistance to homeowners is an eligible expense under the HOME program."

If you go

- What: Las Cruces City Council meeting
- When: 1 p.m. Monday
- Where: Council Chambers at City Hall, 200 N. Church St.
- Information: (575) 541-2076