

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

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Date: December 10, 2024

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Sonya Patterson, Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Community Services Director

Subject: **44812 Cedar Avenue Lease Agreement**

Recommendation:

1. Approve lease agreement for real property to Antelope Valley Foster Friends through January 31, 2025.
2. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to sign all documents related to the lease agreement and all amendments, including amendments to extend the term, subject to City Attorney approval.

G.C. Section 84308: No

Fiscal Impact:

City to receive \$1 annually in rent.

Summary:

Staff recommends leasing the real property located at 44812 Cedar Avenue, 93534 to the non-profit organization Antelope Valley Foster Friends (AVFF) to establish and operate the very first Foster Family Resource Center in the Antelope Valley. Since 2020, AVFF has aimed to support, encourage, and bring hope to foster children and foster families who open their homes to youth in need.

Last year AVFF served over 300 individuals with quarterly respite days, monthly support groups, family days, necessities/supplies and dinner for new placements, along with a community of support, hope and understanding. Sadly, in the Antelope Valley, 58% of foster families quit after 1 year; AVFF is committed to changing that statistic and believes it starts with support for foster families. The Antelope Valley area is vastly underserved and marginalized when it comes to support services for foster families and the Antelope Valley is currently the only area in Los Angeles County without a Resource Center for foster children.

As the first resource center in SPA1, the Foster Family Resource Center will become a beacon of hope for foster families. In addition to AVFF's current successful programs, AVFF's goals include doubling its client base, adding an early reader program to its services, and creating a visitation space for families to utilize.

Nearly one hundred times a day, a child in California is placed in foster care. Los Angeles County averages about 33,000 foster youth in care per day who have experienced abuse, neglect, or abandonment. According to the 2020 census, the Antelope Valley has the third largest population in Los Angeles County. In addition, recent data shows 700 additional kinship foster placements (the second highest in LA County).

Attachment:

Lease Agreement