

City of Hesperia

STAFF REPORT



DATE: January 8, 2019

TO: Chair and Board Members
City Council Advisory Committee

FROM: Nils Bentsen, City Manager

BY: Rachel Molina, Assistant to the City Manager
Dan Sousa, Environmental Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: CivicPlus SSL Security Certificate

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council increase the Council Authority with CivicPlus by \$500, for a revised not to exceed amount of \$62,100. This increase will allow for the payment of SSL certificate updates which CivicPlus has made to the City's website.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Google Chrome Version 68 update, Google will begin marking HTTP websites as "Not Secure." This update is part of Google's HTTPS by Default campaign to help website users understand that HTTP is not a secure connection. The City's website hosting vendor, CivicPlus, has been preparing for these updates to ensure that websites have a valid SSL certificate to affirm they offer a secure connection from their server to a user's web browser.

ISSUES/ANALYSIS

Approximately 48% of all global internet traffic takes place on Google's Chrome web browser. As such, by switching to HTTPS, Google has taken a significant step in ensuring that web browsing will transition to HTTPS as the industry norm.

Some of the benefits of moving to HTTPS by Default include:

- Alignment with the many industries that will be moving toward an HTTPS by default approach in 2018.
- Improved search engine optimization (SEO). For example, websites under the HTTPS protocol are placed higher in Google search rankings.
- Greater security increases user satisfaction. Users are more likely to browse longer and more frequently on the City's website because it utilizes a security certificate.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds were included in the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget and a \$500 amendment is requested.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

1. None