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Memorandum by City Manager's Office

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Albert Balagso
Robert Davis

SUBJECT: CITYWIDE GANG CRIME
PREVENTION EFFORTS

DATE: 10/19/07

Approved

Deanna Sabre

Date

10/19/07

INFORMATION

The purpose of this memorandum is to respond to questions from Councilmember Nora Campos regarding the status of the additional Redevelopment Agency funding in the amount of \$1 million allocated to San Jose BEST. Additional information is also provided to inform the City Council of immediate actions taken by the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) in response to the recent gang related homicides, to notify the City Council about Next Step Actions aimed at curtailing gangs in the City of San Jose, and to provide the City Council with additional information regarding the make-up of the MGPTF and the City's Crisis Response Protocol.

Councilmember Campos' questions are as follows:

- Has the City or Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force developed an itemized list of programs and activities that will be supported by this additional funding?
- How much funding will be allocated towards crisis intervention after violent gang related incidents?
- How much of the funding will be granted to community-based organizations (CBOs) currently providing invaluable outreach to gang members and targets of gang recruitment, as well as counseling services to family members directly affected by acts of gang violence?
- Has there been any funding allocated towards providing counseling services to community members outside of the victim's families to assist them in the aftermath of gang-related homicides or assaults?
- How much funding will be allocated towards making community centers, youth centers school gymnasiums and cafeterias available after normal operating hours so that youth have centralized locations where they can be safe and at which our CBOs can work with them to prevent retaliatory activities?

With the City Council's approval of the 2006-2007 Annual Report at its October 16, 2007 meeting, \$1 million in Redevelopment Agency funding was transferred to supplement San Jose

BEST funding. Consequently, no additional funding has yet been granted to San Jose BEST eligible CBOs. In order to address the recent gang violence, staff from the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) and San Jose Police Departments implemented the City's Crisis Response Protocol. In doing so, PRNS staff and CBOs within the San Jose BEST and MGPTF mobilized to immediately begin assisting family members of the victims, to provide grief counseling to relatives and to schools where victims attended, and outreach to gang members and other high risk youth to prevent retaliatory actions. City staff has also begun making designated community centers available for programming during evening and week-ends through December 2007. This effort is a collaboration between CBOs and the City. The City will provide facilities and CBO's/MGPTF members will provide the services.

San Jose BEST staff has already begun work to develop a funding allocation plan for the additional \$1 million and anticipates completion of the plan within the next 30 days. The allocation plan will potentially identify and fund gaps in services and set aside an emergency reserve that can be utilized to respond to gang related incidents, such as the homicides that occurred in recent weeks. The reserve could also be used to offset costs associated with keeping community centers open to San Jose youth during non-traditional times. With the completion of the allocation plan, any funding augmentations to CBO's will be incorporated into San Jose BEST agreements.

Next Steps:

The safety of all San Jose residents remains a top priority. Our ability to identify and respond to emerging gang trends has proven invaluable in times past. To this end, the City's MGPTF will be taking the following actions over the course of the next 90 days:

- City staff will convene four citywide gang awareness workshops in each of the following police districts: Foothill (council districts 4,5,8), Central (council districts 1,3,4), Western (council districts 6,7,9) and Southern (council districts 2, 10).
- San Jose Police Department, in coordination with PRNS and members of the MGPTF, will closely examine gang related crime statistics and assess current gang climate and trends within the next 40 days and recommend prevention, intervention and suppression strategies accordingly.
- The San Jose Police Department School Liaison Unit will be hosting a School Safety Summit on Nov. 13th. The purpose of this summit will be to have a round table discussion on ways to improve communication between the schools and SJPD. The Summit will include School District Safety Officers and Directors of Student Services.
- Representatives from the San Jose Police Department, PRNS and SNI will begin providing bi-annual council district specific "gang climate" briefings to each respective City Council Office. Within the next 14 days, staff will contact Council District offices

to begin the scheduling of these briefings. In situations of gang related serious injury or death, a classified briefing will be promptly provided.

- The next Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Policy Team will take place on Friday, October 26, 2007 at 7:30 AM (City Hall, wing 118-120)
- The latest incidents have raised safety concerns from members of impacted communities. In response, City staff in coordination with respective SNI, neighborhood associations, SJPD, schools and community based organizations have held and/or will be holding community "solution oriented" meetings with the purpose of: 1) Increasing the community's gang awareness; 2) Informing the community about the resources available to them; and 3) Engaging the community in the development of practical solutions that will preserve their sense of safety and quality of life. City staff have worked in coordination with designated City Council offices and community stakeholders and have participated in (or will be participating in) the following community meetings:

Poco Way Community Meeting

City Council District 5

Location: Arbuckle Elementary School

September 28, 2007 (6:00-8:00 p.m.)

Conference: "Girls & Gangs – Challenges, Choices, Change"

City Council District 9

Location: Camden Community Center

October 5, 2007 (9:00-4:00 p.m.)

Andrew Hill and Overfelt High School Safety Summits

City Council Districts 7 and 8

Location: Andrew Hill High School (12:30-3:30) & Overfelt High School (8:30-12:30)

October 13, 2007

Hoffman/Via Monte Community Meeting

City Council District 10

Location: Cornerstone Community Church

October 17, 2007 (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Neighborhood Summit Meeting

City Council District 5

Location: Fisher Middle School

October 20, 2007 (11:00a.m.– 2:00 p.m.)

East Side Community Anti-Violence Peace Vigil

Sponsored by MACSA

City Council District 5

Location: Procession will begin at Plaza de San Jose and end at Guadalupe Church

October 26, 2007 (7:00-10:00 p.m.)

Jeanne Forestdale Community Meeting

City Council District 3

Location: McKinley Neighborhood Center

October 29, 2007 (8:30-9:30 a.m.)



ALBERT BALAGSO
Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services



ROBERT L. DAVIS
Chief of Police

Attachment

Background Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force

The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) is a highly collaborative group organized to prevent, intervene, and suppress gangs in San Jose. The Task Force also provides a coordinated inter-agency response to gang related incidents which result in serious injury or death. The MGPTF is comprised of city, county, state, community-based organizations, San Jose Police Department, faith community, schools, parent groups and other community stakeholders. The City's annual allocation of \$3 million dollars (provided to fund 24 community-based organizations for Gang Prevention and Intervention Services) was recently increased by one million dollars – making the current provision for FY 07/08, a total of \$4 million.

In recent weeks, the City of San Jose has experienced a slight spike in gang related incidents. Minor increases are not uncommon during this typical "back to school" season of the year. However, the past several weeks have been uncharacteristically violent – in that, our City has endured what appear to be gang related homicides in the Poco Way, Jeanne/Forestdale, Senter/Capitol Expressway and Hoffman Court areas. In each of these unfortunate situations the MGPTF promptly activated its Community Crisis Response Protocol.

Summary of Crisis Response Protocol

The MGPTF implements a Crisis Response Protocol aimed at restoring "peace" in the community and assisting family members, relatives, or witnesses of violent incidents. This procedure activates police and other city departments, community service organizations, social service agencies, and schools to respond promptly to acts of violence. Two departments – San José Police (SJPD) and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) – are the primary responders to an occurrence of gang or youth violence.

In cases where juveniles are involved, staff identify schools negatively impacted by the incident. A member of the school police liaison unit is contacted and it is their responsibility to make contact with those schools and provide them with the information they need to provide a safe environment for their students.

The School Liaison also notifies the MGPTF members through PRNS division leads. Through this interaction, staff begins deployment of quick response intervention teams to work with school officials and youth/families, along with the San Jose Police Department, to de-escalate volatile situations, provide aftercare and "cooling off" opportunities to prevent retaliation and further violent incidents.

Additionally, PRNS safety protocol teams begin directing community-based organization partners and resources into the neighborhoods where they are needed. Outreach to impacted communities is made through designated representatives from the Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) in redevelopment areas or through the Neighborhood Development Center

(NDC) in non-redevelopment communities. Follow-up services are then coordinated for those individuals. Services include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Short-term case management services to families that involve community-based agencies or response networks to wrap services around the needs of the family;
- ✓ Assistance for referral to Victim/Witness Emergency Services in the District Attorney's Office (e.g., helping to relocate victims and witnesses who remain in jeopardy after the initial crime; assisting in obtaining restraining orders, etc.);
- ✓ The provision of ongoing crisis and mental health services (e.g., grief and crisis counseling services provided by the Center for Living with Dying); and
- ✓ Coordinated suppression efforts with local and state enforcement agencies.

In addition, the San Jose Police Department provides a classified briefing to the Office of the Mayor and to the Office of the Council Member in whose district the incident occurred. The Community Crisis Response Protocol described above was activated in neighborhoods where each of the recent homicides occurred.