

# MEMORANDUM

TO: City Manager Debra Figone

FROM: Mayor Chuck Reed  
Councilmember Madison P. Nguyen  
Councilmember Sam Liccardo  
Councilmember Rose Herrera  
Councilmember Pete Constant

SUBJECT: Elimination of the Violent Crime  
Enforcement Team (VCET)

DATE: September 21, 2010

APPROVED

*Chuck Reed*

DATE: 09/21/10

RECOMMENDATION

Over the weekend we became aware of some organizational changes in the Police Department that were made as a result of reductions in the number of authorized officers in the FY2010-11 budget the Council approved in June due to a dramatic increase in employee costs. The changes included a merger of the VCET and METRO units. Upon review of the budget documents, it appears that Council did not direct the elimination of VCET but rather approved a reduction in staffing for the METRO unit.

We request the following information be made available to the Council as soon as possible.

1. What changes have taken place in the SJPD organization structure and how does that compare to the approved budget?
2. How will the work done by VCET be handled going forward?
3. What other resources will continue to be deployed for gang suppression, prevention and intervention for the rest of this fiscal year?

BACKGROUND

There has been much confusion in the past few days regarding the merging of VCET with the Metro Unit. Some members of the Community are under the impression that the City has eliminated the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and nothing could be further from the truth. The work of the MGPTF encompasses prevention, intervention and suppression. It has been in operation since 1991 and entails the efforts of the police department, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, community based organizations and a myriad of partners. The City of San Jose continues to have gang prevention, intervention and suppression as one of its highest priorities.