



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR REED

FROM: Councilmember Pete Constant

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 19, 2010

Approved 

Date

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

BACKGROUND

City-Council Initiated Neighborhood Improvement Reserve Fund/Other Budget Proposals

Program/Project Title: Restore Patrol Officer Positions (4 FTE)

Amount of City Funding Required: \$533,988

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes: Requested funding changes would affect benefits or services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc., as described below: (Use as much space as required.)

This will re-allocate existing General Fund dollars to preserve much needed and essential police officer *patrol* positions, while preserving the ability for the police patrol units to respond to calls for service.

Funding Source

Program/Project Title: Eliminate Day Detective Staffing

Amount of City Funding Change: \$600,652

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General Fund

Anticipated Outcomes:

It has been well documented that the City of San Jose is critically short of police resources. An analysis by the Police Department shows that the City needs to hire *hundreds* of police officers and non-sworn personnel to adequately provide police response and investigative services to the over 1 million residents and tens of thousands of business and visitors.

During the course of eight years of budget deficits, the City has been able to balance the budget without significantly reducing the number of police officers and has been able to maintain patrol officer staffing at a fairly consistent number. Now, as we enter into FY10-11 with a deficit of unprecedented proportions, the Council is faced with a budget that proposes reducing the dayshift and midnight shift patrol teams by a full 20%. The impact of these severe reductions will be felt in every neighborhood throughout the City and pose an immediate threat to our officers' safety.

As a City, we must do everything within our power to ensure that the number of line-level patrol officers is not reduced, as these officers are our first responders and first line of defense.

To do this we must start to look at new ways of delivering services, including, if necessary, changing time-honored traditions such as combining units currently working in different police department bureaus.

The police department's Violent Crimes Enforcement Team (VCET) and the Gang Investigation Unit (GIU) both work to suppress gang activity through investigation and apprehension of gang members. While these units do very similar work and interface with each other on a regular basis, they are in two different chains of command and in two different police bureaus.

Combining these two units within one bureau would enhance the synergy between the units, reduce redundancies and reduce the supervision and management needed while maintaining the number of officers allocated to do the work.

Adopting this Budget Document would restore 4 FTE patrol officers.

Given the critically low staffing in the patrol division, these police resources allocated to supervision would have much greater value and impact if they were re-allocated to police patrol services where the need is immediate, increasing the safety of the general public and the safety of patrol officers. This action only minimally increases span of control.

Department or Organization: Police Department

Department or Organization Contact (Please list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation.)

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This change is:

_____ One-time **X** Ongoing

The City Service Area to which the change best relates:

- Community and Economic Development Services
- Environmental and Utility Services
- Neighborhood Services
- Public Safety
- Strategic Support
- Transportation and Aviation Services