



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 (49 FTE)

Amount of City Funding Required: ~\$6,541,358

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: Restructure Patrol to 3 Divisions

Amount of City Funding Change: ~\$6,575,296

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.

The police patrol division is currently structured in four divisions: Western, Foothill, Central and Southern Divisions. The four divisions are divided into four police districts. In the past the patrol division was structured in three divisions, each with four patrol teams. In both structures the number of beat patrol officers is similar; however the four division structure increases the number of teams, therefore increasing the number of sergeants, lieutenants and captains, reducing the span of control.

Returning to a three division patrol structure at the upcoming September shift change will provide us to modify the span of control slightly for the purposes of maintain critically needed line-level patrol officer staffing.

Restructuring to three patrol divisions will eliminate the following positions:

- One Captain (\$254,162)
- Eight Lieutenants (\$1,773,379)
- 24 Sergeants (\$4,547,755) *Total Available for Re-allocation: \$6,575,296*

Re-allocating budget appropriations earmarked for supervisors to line-level patrol officer staffing will restore 49 FTE police patrol officers.

While restructuring patrol divisions may be a time consuming process, the benefit gained will pay huge dividends in neighborhood safety, reduced response times and increased officer safety. Since the police department has operated with three divisions in the past, implementation could be made relatively simple by simply rolling back to previously utilized district and beat configurations. A full redistricting analysis can be conducted in future years when the City is not in the dire financial crisis that it finds itself in at this time.

Department or Organization: Police Department

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

Name: Paul Harper, City Manager’s Budget Office

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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