



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO

FROM: Councilmember M. Carrasco

SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

DATE: May 27, 2021

Approved

Date

Proposal

Program/Project Title: San Jose Families for Peace

Amount of City Funding Required: \$250,000

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): N/A

Allocate \$250,000 in one-time funding in form of a matching grant to the Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence. The largest and oldest provider of domestic violence services in San Jose. These funds come during a time of unprecedented need for families who have been impacted by domestic violence. The agency has continued operating for 50 years and will use these funds to meet the needs of San Jose families and their work to shift community norms that promote healthy community norms that make domestic violence unacceptable and prioritizes a community response to domestic violence focused on the safety of survivors and their families while maintaining supportive accountability for those who harm.

On May 26, 2021, the peace of daily life around the County government center was shattered when a gunman opened fire and killed 8 people and wounded others. An additional person later passed away bringing the total loss of life to 10 people.

Many questions have been raised. Did this person have any history of violent behavior? Records from San Francisco indicate he had a history of intimate partner violence with an ex-girlfriend. If violence is a learned behavior, was he exposed to violence earlier in his life? Did he display violence in his workplace? Perhaps there was no evidence that he had experienced or witnessed violence in his life.

Recognizing that in order to end violence in a community, we must focus on ending violence in the home. The Late Judge Sharon Chatman often spoke about the need to build “peaceful families” that focused on healthy relationships and healing the relationship between children and parents, especially when violence occurred in the family.

This year, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence celebrates 50 years. Founded by long-time San Jose resident Bea Robinson Mendez in 1971 under the name Women's Alliance, the birth of the agency came at a time where help and resources to address domestic violence did not exist. Bea recounts how the City of San José was one of the first sources of funding for the organization. Little did she know that it would be the second domestic violence agency established in California and the first domestic violence agency to offer bilingual services in the country.

Today, Next Door Solutions celebrates a long history of ending domestic violence in the moment and continues to work toward a goal of ending domestic violence for all time. Next Door Solutions is the largest provider of domestic violence services in San Jose and Santa Clara County. **Last year, they answered over 14,600 phone calls and served 1,753 unduplicated clients from the City of San Jose alone. They have been an outstanding partner to the City of San Jose, helping disseminate over 1 million dollars in COVID 19 support and rental assistance directly to residents, \$400,000 which came directly from community contributions to Next Door Solutions. The Agency operates the only LGBTQIAP support group in Santa Clara County, as well as the only support group for men who are survivors of domestic violence.** Recognizing that some survivors will remain with their abusive partners and that these partners also need support and healing to stop their abusive behavior, their pilot program "Families for Peace" is the only program of its kind in San Jose that works with families experiencing domestic violence and provides support and services to the survivor, the children and the person who harms.

For 50 years, the agency has provided services designed to move survivors and families from crisis and violence, into safety, stability and self-sufficiency with a wide array of crisis services, risk assessment and safety planning, emergency shelter, self-sufficiency services, legal services, therapy and support groups, and innovative prevention programs aimed at engaging men and boys, including implementation of the Coaching Boys into Men training for East side coaches and athletes.

We are entering a period of time where non-profit agencies are bracing for donor fatigue and the unprecedented level of need for ongoing support to mitigate the devastating effects of COVID 19 and the parallel pandemic of domestic violence.

This initiative titled "San Jose Families for Peace" is requested in recognition of the fact that a grant from the City of San Jose launched the work of Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence nearly 50 years ago. The proposed grant in the amount of \$250,000 will provide critical general operating funding for Next Door Solutions as we move forward in these uncertain times and launch the next 50 years for the agency, the only stand alone agency whose services focus on addressing and ending domestic violence and its negative effects in the family and our community. The residents of San Jose have benefited greatly from the agency's crisis services and we propose this grant and look forward to a report back in FY 2022 about their transformative work to achieve peace in our community and specifically bring back how they have been working to meet the needs of the whole family through a wide array of services, how they have engaged San José residents and agencies in prevention initiatives, their partnerships with City departments such as San José Police Department and other multi-sector partners and businesses, and to share data and outcomes that represent a snapshot of what families in all ten districts are experiencing and how they have been helped by Next Door Solutions. Everyone has a role to play in ending domestic violence.

This year, on October 8th we will be launching Domestic Violence Awareness month in collaboration with Next Door Solutions and other organizations and partners from throughout San Jose. This event "Light Up City Hall" will showcase the music, art and the work happening with community leaders, youth and adults, to end domestic violence, promote healthy relationships and engage in education and awareness raising with

help from Promotoras, community agencies and groups from across San Jose and beyond. We will bring back the Walk to End Domestic Violence and move forward together into the next 50 years to ensure our families are safe, healthy and have the support they need to break the cycle of domestic violence and enjoy the highest quality of life possible.

Funding Source

X Essential Services Reserve:

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

Department or Organization Contact

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

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