



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Norberto Duenas
Jennifer A Maguire

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT TEAM REORGANIZATION **DATE:** May 23, 2012

Approved

Date

5/23/12

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Approve the following amendments to the 2012-2013 Proposed Operating Budget in the General Fund:
 - a. Decrease the City Manager's Office Personal Services appropriation in the amount of \$462,100;
 - b. Increase the Housing Department's Personal Services appropriation in the amount of \$253,862; and,
 - c. Increase the Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department's Personal Services appropriation in the amount of \$208,238.

- 2) Approve the following position amendments to the 2012-2013 Proposed Operating Budget:
 - a. Shift 3.75 Community Activity Worker PT positions from the City Manager's Office to the Park, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department;
 - b. Shift 1 Community Coordinator and 1 Community Services Supervisor position from the City Manager's Office to the Housing Department.

BACKGROUND

In August 2010 the Mayor and City Council unanimously adopted the Strong Neighborhoods Business Plan Update that focused the program's limited resources and smaller staff on stabilizing a short list of neighborhoods in crisis and looking at new ways of engaging residents citywide. Since the adoption of that plan, the continuing difficult budgetary situation during both 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 in the City has brought a significant reduction in available resources for the former Strong Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the dissolution of the former Redevelopment Agency eliminated all former Redevelopment Agency resources as well. In June 2011 as part of the 2011-2012 Adopted Budget, the Mayor and City Council through the Manager's Budget Addendum #35 directed the City Manager's Office to begin developing a coordinated cross-departmental team to lead neighborhood engagement efforts.

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ANALYSIS

Consistent with the City Council direction for 2011-2012, this past year has seen tighter collaboration between City departments and programs working in neighborhoods most notably with the Mayor's Gang Prevention Taskforce and the Housing Department. In December 2011 the City Council approved a new place-based neighborhood strategy for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) providing approximately \$3.3 million towards this effort. This new strategy focuses funding on the development of a select few neighborhoods typically identified with strong existing community partners where focused investments could shift the neighborhood into stability with the intent to add additional neighborhoods over time and allow others to phase out and be left to a critical non-profit partner that will take the lead. In parallel, in April 2012 the Mayor's Gang Prevention Taskforce Policy Team adopted a new set of gang hotspots and recommended focusing gang prevention, intervention, and suppression activities in these hotspots, including the current three neighborhoods identified as part of the new CDBG place-based strategy.

The City's Neighborhood Engagement Team is drawing on existing resources from across the City to form a multi-departmental collaborative Policy Team comprised of representatives from Departments such as Housing, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS), Police, Library, and Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE). This Policy Team will guide the direction and initiative of the Neighborhood Engagement team with the City Manager's Office acting as facilitator and convener. To address day to day implementation and execution of initiatives, a smaller cross departmental Technical Team of the Manager's Office, the Housing Department and the PRNS Department would be convened to oversee and coordinate efforts such as the community crisis response, Graffiti and Blight Abatement, CDBG funded neighborhood programs, housing rehabilitation, B.E.S.T. funding, as well as efforts to awaken neighborhood capacity across San Jose. To reflect and support this growing collaboration and formalize the multi-departmental Neighborhood Engagement Team, the realignment of resources amongst the various partners is recommended.

This reorganization will shift resources from the City Manager's Office directly into the Housing and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Departments to facilitate this collaborative effort. In the Housing Department, two positions - a neighborhood team manager and a lead community organizer (Community Services Supervisor and Community Coordinator) - will implement the place-based strategy as directed by City Council. These positions will work with community partners in the three designated areas to guide the implementation of the strategy and work to secure new partners in other neighborhoods next in line. To augment the efforts of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Taskforce, 3.75 part-time organizer positions (Community Activity Worker part-time) are recommended to be shifted from the City Manager's Office to the Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department to focus on the newly approved gang hotspots and work to create cleaner, safer, and more engaged neighborhoods. In addition, the transfer of the Spartan Keyes Neighborhood Action Center will be shifted from the responsibility of the City Manager's Office to the PRNS Department who will place this site on its facility reuse list and manage it through the remainder of its lease which expires in 2014.

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The City Manager's Office would retain two positions, charged with the coordination and management of this multi-departmental team. These resources will focus on supporting both the Policy Team and the Technical Team ensuring the development and execution of the key initiatives under the Neighborhood Engagement Team. In addition, the continuation of the Community Action and Pride Grant program, support of key engagement efforts, and work to support and encourage volunteerism in the City will also be managed.



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For more information, please contact Kip Harkness, Assistant to the City Manager, at 408-535-8501.