

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR
20061212 3:30 PM 5:33

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Department of Human Services
DATE: December 12, 2006

RE: A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Execute Agreements Between The City Of Oakland And Project Re-Connect For An Amount Not To Exceed \$85,000 And The Oakland Unified School District Office Of Alternative Education For An Amount Not To Exceed \$255,000 To Provide Gang Prevention And Intervention Services In Accordance With The Violence Prevention And Public Safety Act Of 2004 For The Period Of January 1, 2007 To December 31, 2007 With A One Year Option To Renew

SUMMARY

On July 11, 2006 the Public Safety Committee finalized plans for the use of \$1.5 million in carry forward funds from the Violence Prevention Program Funds of the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act of 2004 (VPPSA). These plans included \$680,000 for gang prevention and intervention programs. A Request for Proposals for Gang Prevention and Intervention programs was released by the City of Oakland, Department of Human Services in August of 2006. This report outlines the recommendations of the independent review panel that scored the proposals to fund two organizations to provide gang prevention and intervention programs: Project Re-Connect for \$85,000 and a collaborative led by the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) Office of Alternative Education and California Youth Outreach for \$255,000 (\$190,000 in gang intervention funds plus \$65,000 in gang parenting funds).

FISCAL IMPACT

Currently, there are \$680,000 in Measure Y: VPPSA unexpended funds in FY 2005-06 which are allocated for gang prevention and intervention programs. These funds are located at Public Safety Act of 2004 Measure Y Fund (2251), DHS Administration Unit Organization (78111), Gang Intervention Project (G261272).

BACKGROUND

On June 7, 2005, City Council approved specific program recommendations for Measure Y: VPPSA funded violence prevention programs. The recommendations included allocating funds to existing violence prevention programs and allocating funds to community based organizations

Item: _____
Public Safety Committee
December 12, 2006

or public agencies through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The funding for the contracts awarded through the RFP process started July 1, 2006 are using funds available from FY 06-07, thus leaving \$4.4 million in revenues collected in FY 05-06 available for re-programming. The City Council approved the re-programming of funds on July 18, 2006 to include the following programs:

- Support for Youth Uprising Teen Center - \$1,500,000
- Capital Costs for Sexually Exploited Minors Safe House - \$225,000
- Gap funding for the Family Violence Intervention Unit for FY 05-06 - \$190,000
- Grantee Data Base Development, Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance - \$150,000
- Reserve Fund - \$845,718
- Community Crisis Response Teams - \$800,000 over two years
- Support Groups for Youth Exposed to Violence and Staffing Infrastructure at the Family Justice Center - \$147,364 over five years
- **Gang Prevention and Intervention Parent Education and Support Groups Demonstration Grants-\$300,000 over two years**
- **Gang Intervention and Prevention Demonstration Grants - \$380,000 over two years**
- Oakland Gang Intervention and Prevention Network and Task Force - \$20,000 over two years

The City Council dedicated carry forward funds to Gang Prevention and Intervention programs due in part to a report from the Oakland Police Department (OPD) to the Committee on April 11, 2006 outlining the gang problem in Oakland. The report noted that the number of active street gangs increased from two to four over 18 months and estimated that the total number of gang members in Oakland is 1,000 – 1,500. At the time of the OPD report, six homicides (38%) were attributed to gang violence for the first four months of 2006, in comparison to a total of nine in 2005 as a whole. Additionally, OPD anticipated the number of gang related shootings to double in 2006.

OPD attributes most of the violent gang activity in Oakland to Latino street gangs, such as the Nortenos and Surenos in Central and East Oakland. The Department of Human Services also contacted community based organizations that work with youth and local community leaders to receive their input on the gang problem in Oakland. Many confirmed that the number of youth involved in gang activity in Oakland has increased over the past two years. While most community members felt there were still issues related to turf among some African American youth and there are active Asian gangs, the problem is not increasing as noticeably as it is in the *Latino youth population*.

In an effort to address this rising gang violence issue, the City Council approved the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for gang intervention and prevention programs as demonstration projects to provide services for one year, with a one year option to renew. The programs focus on parenting education for parents or guardians of elementary and middle school students living in Central and East Oakland and general gang prevention and intervention programs for gang involved youth or youth at high risk for gang involvement living in Central and East Oakland.

Item: _____
Public Safety Committee
December 12, 2006

KEY ISSUES

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on August 22, 2006 calling for proposals from community based organizations or public agencies to provide the following services:

Gang Prevention and Intervention Parent Education and Support Groups Demonstration Grants - \$300,000

Organizations will provide parent education and support groups for at least 80 families of elementary and middle school children and youth at high risk for future gang involvement with an emphasis on gang awareness and prevention.

Gang Prevention and Intervention Demonstration Grants - \$380,000

Organizations will provide youth who are gang involved and/or at high-risk for becoming gang involved with positive alternatives to gang life. Programs must use at least one of the following program models in their program design for working with at least 60 targeted youth (ages 12-25):

- Engages targeted youth in life skills activities and trainings;
- Provides targeted youth with diversion activities that are leadership-based (e.g., community organizing, political activism, volunteerism);
- Provides targeted youth with case management services and referrals to support services;
- Fosters lasting, positive relationships between targeted youth and mentors or caring adults.

Request for Proposal Process

Fourteen applications from a variety of Oakland based organizations and public agencies were submitted to the City of Oakland, Department of Human Services on October 6, 2006. There were three (3) parent education proposals, ten (10) gang prevention and intervention proposals and one (1) proposal for both program strategies.

Gang Prevention and Intervention General Demonstration Grants

The independent review panel comprised of professionals in the field of violence prevention, gang intervention and prevention, and case management for at-risk youth reviewed the general Gang Prevention and Intervention proposals. They met on October 19, 2006 and determined the most responsive and qualified applicant was a collaboration led by the Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education and a non-profit organization, California Youth Outreach. The recommendation of the independent review panel is:

- **Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education and California Youth Outreach - \$190,000 for 2007 and \$190,000 for 2008**

Oakland Youth Outreach is a joint effort of OUSD Office of Alternative Education, California Youth Outreach and a collaborative including the Oakland Police Department, Alameda County

Item: _____
Public Safety Committee
December 12, 2006

Probation, and a number of Oakland youth serving agencies including: Asian Community Mental Health Services, East Bay Agency for Children, East Bay Asian Youth Center, Girls Inc., La Clinica, New Bridge Foundation/ASPIRE, Seneca Center, Sports 4 Kids, The Mentoring Center and Youth Radio. Using trained Youth Intervention Specialists working in five of Oakland's toughest alternative schools, it will serve 75 gang involved youth via Gang Redirect classes, personal and family interventions, case management, leadership opportunities and connections to community support services. The Alternative Education office has assigned a staff person to coordinate services at for this project, but the majority of the grant (\$130,000) will go directly to California Youth Outreach (CYO). CYO is responsible for the employment of two Youth Intervention Specialists who will deliver the Gang Redirect classes, interventions, leadership opportunities, case management and implementing connections to community support services.

The Oakland Youth Outreach Collaborative will meet quarterly to discuss strategies and coordinate efforts. Sub-committees will meet more frequently. Staff will train teachers and agency partners about gang dynamics and how to prevent and intervene in gang related activities. Seventy-five high risk students will participate in eight week classes and be drawn into leadership based diversion programs. Youth Intervention Specialists will provide intervention and paraprofessional case management services to the 75 targeted youth, including home visits and crisis response when needed.

California Youth Outreach (CYO) was founded in 1982 to meet the needs of young men and women who have fallen prey to gangs and drugs in northern California. Their mission is to educate youth and adults about the pitfalls of gang and drug lifestyle, to assist those that are looking to find their way out of gangs and drugs, and to create alternatives that will enhance their new lifestyle. CYO was instrumental in developing the San Jose Mayor's Gang Task Force and their Executive Director, Rev. Tony Ortiz, is a nationally recognized expert in the field of gang prevention and intervention and recipient of the California Wellness Foundation's Peace Prize. CYO is assisting the City of Fresno in developing a Gang Task Force and CYO has been operating a truancy program at Fremont High School in Oakland for over six years. CYO will bring much needed experience in working with gang involved youth to Oakland.

Gang Prevention and Intervention Parent Education and Support Groups Grants

The independent review panel of professionals in the field of child development, parent education and services for at-risk youth reviewed the proposals for the Gang Prevention and Intervention Parenting Education program strategy. They met on October 30, 2006 and determined the most responsive and qualified applicants were:

- **Project Re-Connect - Project P.A.R.E.N.T Program - \$85,000 for 2007 and \$85,000 for 2008**

Project Re-Connect is a non-profit organization serving Oakland since 1991. Services include counseling, parent support and community service integration to youth and families who are juvenile offenders. Project Re-Connect will provide parent education services to 80 parents of

elementary and middle school children and youth at-high risk for gang involvement. The curriculum used has been previously evaluated and deemed highly effective by three independent evaluators. The classes are held one time per week for eight weeks and include sessions devoted specifically to gang awareness and prevention. Two parent educators will provide two hours of parent education workshops once per week for a total of 16 hours. Four groups of 20 families (80) will be served by the end of December 2007. Parents will choose to be involved with a support group or continue to be involved in a parent peer mentoring component that begins during the eight week class sessions. Project Re-Connect is committed to hiring bi-lingual staff (Spanish and English) to implement this program. Services will be provided at their offices at 33rd Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard. Parents will be recruited through schools in the targeted areas and referred through the Alameda County Office of Probation. Incentives and child care will be provided for participation. Parents needing additional help and case management will be referred to appropriate outside agencies, with whom Project Re-Connect already collaborate.

- **OUSD Alternative Education/ California Youth Outreach - \$65,000 for 2007**

Staff recommends awarding the remaining \$65,000 in parent education funding to the collaborative lead by OUSD Office of Alternative Education in partnership with California Youth Outreach (CYO). CYO's original proposal included a parenting component but did not request funding in this category. With these additional funds, CYO will expand the parenting education component in their original proposal and provide capacity building and staff training on gang awareness to Oakland agencies including Measure Y grantees.

Specifically, CYO will provide parent trainings in geographically diverse areas of Oakland and have a monthly parent support group. All services will be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner. CYO uses a practical and realistic curriculum for parents focusing on why youth become involved in gangs and the tools parents can use to address gang issues in their family. CYO will also provide parent education training on gang issues to Project Re-Connect, community based providers (including those who applied to the RFP) and to various high schools in the Central and East Oakland neighborhoods most affected by high levels of gang violence. OUSD/CYO will provide six parent trainings in a geographically diverse selection of sites throughout Oakland, as well as monthly support groups. Up to 25 parents will attend each of the six trainings, with a total minimum of 100 parents served. Parents groups of 8-10 will attend each of the monthly support groups.

In addition to focusing on parent education, CYO will also help build capacity at other Oakland youth serving organizations to improve their ability to address the unique needs of youth at high risk for gang involvement. CYO Executive Director, Tony Ortiz, will serve as the primary trainer for partnering organizations in this strategy. Capacity building will include all-day workshops presented by Mr. Ortiz with additional CYO staff assisting. CYO's Level One and Level Two Training Workshops are designed to increase participants' gang awareness and provide concrete strategies for working with youth who are gang-involved or at risk for becoming gang-involved. CYO will offer two Level One Trainings (basic) and one Level Two Training (advanced). Up to

150 participants will be served in each of the Level One Trainings and up to 60 participants will attend Level Two Training. In addition, CYO staff will work with organizations such as Victory Outreach to strengthen their ability to work with other organizations and the public system and to more fully develop their organization. This additional funding will enable California Youth Outreach to be an integral part of the Oakland Gang Prevention Providers Network.

After one year, the remaining \$65,000 may be allocated to an Oakland organization that has received capacity building services from CYO to provide parent education classes. A recommendation on how to use the \$65,000 in the second year will be made to City Council in December 2007.

The rationale for this recommendation is as follows. Staff received four proposals for the parenting component. While the second and third ranked proposals had notable qualities, they were not able to demonstrate how their services would identify and focus on families and youth most at-risk for gang involvement. In addition, while these applicants had excellent backgrounds in parent education, they did not have experience in gang-related parenting education. In contrast, the OUSD/CYO proposal demonstrated a proven parenting curriculum, extensive experience which could be paired with intervention to ensure reaching the highest risk families. This recommendation is made with the concurrence of two of the three reviewers.

Furthermore, in both funding categories, staff was concerned at the lack of representation in the applicant pool of the agencies traditionally serving the Latino community in Oakland--the community identified as being hardest hit by increasing gang violence. An informal staff survey found these agencies acknowledging the importance of this issue, an eagerness to participate in the proposed networking of agencies, but a hesitation to launch into this service area. For DHS staff, this indicated a clear need to build local capacity in this community around this important issue. Capacity building is a core component of CYO's work and an expertise for which they are known throughout the state. As more Oakland agencies are trained in gang prevention and intervention work, DHS expects second year funding could be allocated to one or more of the runner-up agencies to provide parenting education.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Providing gang intervention and prevention programs for Oakland youth will increase their economic stability by linking them to organizations that can provide them with job training and job placement.

Environmental: No environmental impacts are expected at this time.

Social Equity: Measure Y: VPPSA programs assist the youth in Oakland in achieving a greater degree of social equity. Creating programs that decrease gang activity and involvement will increase the likelihood that youth will complete school and avoid arrest and incarceration.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACCESS

All programs funded by Measure Y: VPPSA will be accessible to persons with disabilities.

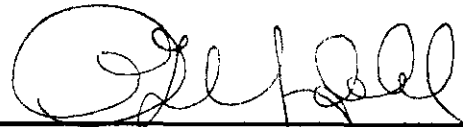
RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

Staff requests that the City Council adopt the resolution to authorize the grant agreements outlined in this report, specifically Project Re-Connect for \$85,000 to conduct parenting services and OUSD/California Youth Outreach for \$255,000 (\$190,000 in gang interventions funds plus \$65,000 for gang parenting funds). These agencies have proven track records demonstrating their ability to deliver tangible outcomes that will reduce gang involvement in the City of Oakland.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

That City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to execute agreements between the City of Oakland and Project Re-Connect for an amount not to exceed \$85,000 and the Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education for an amount not to exceed \$255,000 to provide Gang Prevention and Intervention services in accordance with the Violence Prevention And Public Safety Act of 2004 for the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 with a one year option to renew.

Respectfully submitted,



ANDREA YOUNGDAHL

Director, Department of Human Services

Reviewed by:
Sara Bedford, Manager
Policy and Planning Unit

Prepared by:
Page Tomblin, Planner
Policy and Planning Unit

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**


OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Item: _____
Public Safety Committee
December 12, 2006

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

2006 NOV 30 PM 5:38

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND PROJECT RE-CONNECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$85,000 AND THE OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$255,000 TO PROVIDE GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 2004 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2007 WITH A ONE YEAR OPTION TO RENEW

WHEREAS, City of Oakland voters passed Measure Y, the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act of 2004, in November 2004, approving a series of taxes to support violence prevention objectives; and

WHEREAS, Measure Y resources are available and violence prevention programs were approved by City Council on June 7, 2005; and

WHEREAS, among these programs, the City Council approved programs that will be funded by Measure Y carry forward funds from Fiscal Year 2005-06; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deemed gang prevention and intervention programs as necessary to curb violence in the City of Oakland; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved \$300,000 in carry forward funding for parent education and gang awareness programs and \$380,000 in carry forward funding over two years for funding general gang prevention and intervention programs; and

WHEREAS, through a competitive Request for Proposals process Project Re-Connect and the Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education were the most qualified and competent entities to implement said programs; and

WHEREAS, the funding for these contracts are allocated at Public Safety Act of 2004 Measure Y Fund (2251), DHS Administration Unit Organization (78111), Gang Intervention Project (G261272); and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to enter into an agreement with Project Re-Connect for \$85,000 to implement this Measure Y program, with a one-year option to renew contingent upon successful performance; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to enter into an agreement with the Oakland Unified School District for \$255,000 to implement this Measure Y program, with a one-year option to renew contingent upon successful performance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this contract will not result in the loss of employment or salary by any person having permanent status in the civil service; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Project Re-Connect for \$85,000 and the Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education for \$255,000 (\$190,000 in gang intervention funds plus \$65,000 in gang parenting funds) with one year options to renew by the City for the same amounts, contingent upon successful performance, for the purpose of providing gang prevention and intervention services to at-risk youth and their parents funded by the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act of 2004; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, modifications, payment requests and related actions which may be necessary in accordance with its basic purpose; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That said agreements shall be approved as to form and legality by the Office of the City Attorney and placed on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California