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AGENDA REPORT

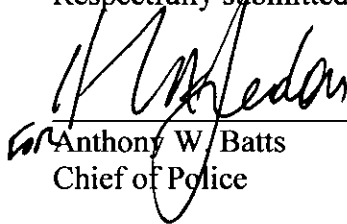
~~2010~~ APR 15 PM 5:54 Office of the City Administrator

Attn: Dan Lindheim
From: Police Department
Date: April 27, 2010

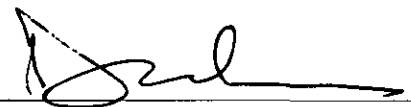
Re: **Informational Report on the O.K. Program of Oakland**

The attached information is presented on behalf of the O.K. Program of Oakland, in coordination with the Oakland Police Department.

Respectfully submitted,


Anthony W. Batts
Chief of Police

FORWARD TO
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:


Office of the City Administrator

Attachment: O.K. Program Information

Item: _____
Public Safety Comte.
April 27, 2010

O.K. (Our Kids) Program of Oakland
Leslie Littleton, Director

The purpose of this report is to convey the mission of the O.K. Mentoring Program of Oakland and its invaluable impact on an at risk population in the City. Additionally, the O.K. Program of Oakland (O.K. Program) helps to address truancy, offers a form of community policing and enhances Community/Police relationships in the City.

The O.K. Program of Oakland is a nonprofit mentoring program facilitated by Oakland Police Officers, for boys between the ages of 12-18. The City of Oakland donates three fulltime police officers to provide intense mentoring to African American boys who are at risk of incarceration or being perpetrators or victims of homicide. The program recruits African American boys because statistically they are linked to 70% of the criminal activity in the City of Oakland and nation-wide. The O.K. Program is an affiliate of a national model founded by Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Sheriff Donald Northcross 20 years ago. As a Deputy Sheriff in California he witnessed thousands of young boys, particularly African American boys, enter and re-enter the criminal system. His vision/mission was and still is to reach at risk boys, at an age where they can redirect behavior and offer alternatives to a life of crime, incarceration, and/or death. Currently, there are five affiliate programs nationwide. Moreover, the O.K. Program was recognized by former President of the United States George Bush.

In operation since February 2009, the O.K. Program of Oakland galvanizes the Police Department, the Oakland Unified School District system, the Faith-Based Community, Parents, Community Organizations, Men (teammates) and Women in the community to provide comprehensive mentoring services to at risk African American boys. The goal of the program is to offer alternatives to a life of crime and provide a road map for responsible citizenship. In particular, the program promotes the importance of school attendance and academic achievement. Since the inception of the program in 1990 (20 years), all graduates of the program have gone to college, joined the government forces, or enrolled in vocational training,

The program celebrated its first year anniversary in February 2010; the O.K. Program team has implemented a number of enhancements to the program due to the financial support of corporate and private donors. The goal for 2010 is to recruit and retain a minimum of 300 boys. The O.K. Program improves and saves the lives of our youth in Oakland, and directly addresses the root causes of crime in a productive more humanistic manner.

Service Delivery

Service delivery is two-fold; the program coordinators/ police officers provide 24 hour 7 day a week, one-on-one, mentoring to boys on an as needed basis. Mentoring includes resolving immediate conflicts between the patron and the school, the family or a person in the neighborhood. The officers will meet with the patron to discuss truancy concerns,

behavior challenges, poor academic performance etc. Additionally, the program officers, in conjunction with the *Teammates*, render group mentoring at the weekly Kic'It sessions and other program sponsored events. The Saturday Kic'It sessions take place on Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) campuses. The sites are; -McClymonds High School, Elmhurst Middle School, Frick Jr. High School, Fremont High School, Melrose Elementary School and the United for Success School. The Program team/officers provide instruction on topics such as conflict resolution, police procedures, academic success, professionalism, job preparedness, career development, healthy life choices such as safe sex, healthy diet, daily exercise routine etc. for the first two hours of the Kic'It session. The second two hours consist of providing a healthy meal and having the participants participating in a sports activity of the patron's choice. Moreover, the program emphasizes successful academic performance by offering study halls at the OUSD campuses and providing incentives for academic achievement.

Expectations of Students in the Program

The O. K. program requires each student to strive to achieve at least a 2.5 grade point average and maintain responsible citizenship. These requirements are evaluated at the end of each grading period. Program Coordinators monitor the students' academic progress and behavior. Students who meet the academic (2.5 or better) expectations and the responsible citizenship requirements—(good behavior, no complaints from school, home or other venues) earn a STEP Reward in the program and are rewarded with an opportunity to participate in planned events. STEP rewards are given only if the patron has satisfied the academic requirements and the good citizenship requirements. This event may include, attending a professional sporting event, group dinners, movies, plays etc. Students who meet all the requirements for the year will be entitled to participate in the O.K. Program Main Event—a two to three day trip designed to provide the young men with an experience they'll remember for a lifetime.

O.K. Program of Oakland Teammates

The program has over 160 men in the community who have registered to be teammates. Every registrant in the program is assigned one student and can be paired with up to three students. Teammates are men in the community who volunteer to mentor boys in the program, pursuant to completing an intense training program and a background check. Teammates do not engage in one-on-one mentoring but rather "group mentoring" at the KIC'It Sessions. Teammates are required to call their assigned student once a week, interact with the boys during KIC'It Sessions, and participate in planned O.K. Program outings. Teammates assist with tracking the progress of their student and help to provide positive and continuous role modeling for the boys.

The O.K. Program of Oakland effectively addresses some of the challenges associated with public safety in Oakland. The O.K. Program combats truancy, provides examples of positive role modeling, enables more access to caring adults, offers tools for conflict resolution, provides healthy lifestyle choices, and provides employment guidance. For patrons who are formerly incarcerated, the O.K. Program instructs patrons how to avoid

environments and situations that will lead them back to juvenile detention. Some of the patrons are homeless, in foster care, or have few if any positive male role models in their lives. The O.K. Program team helps to fill the void and guide this population away from a path of crime.

The primary purpose of the program is to intervene, redirect and promote responsible citizenship for African American boys who are vulnerable to criminal activity or death. Through its collaborative partnerships, the program aids in providing alternatives to a life of crime and a formula for living a successful life. The collective partners in the program relay to the young men the importance of academic achievement, personal achievement, work ethic, career development, financial responsibility and making healthy life style choices. Currently, there are 170 registrants in the program and 150 men cleared to become mentors. The goal is to recruit and maintain 300 boys in the program.

Evaluation of Past Performance

The O.K. Program just completed its inaugural year, and has been able to sustain 100 of the 150 boys it initially recruited into the program. Last year the program experienced a number of hurdles that negatively influenced retention. However, the program team has implemented a number of enhancements designed to increase participation immensely. For example, the Program team implemented a recruiting strategy that will increase mentor/teammate engagement and appointed a blend of board members who can be more hands on with high-level program issues. The O.K. Program team is poised to recruit and retain a minimum of 300 boys in 2010. Although the City donates the salaries of the Police Officers and an administrative person to the O.K. Program of Oakland, it has applied for grants under the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth and other private institutions.

The O.K. Program creates a myriad of opportunities for the City of Oakland. Most importantly, the City of Oakland will be collaborating with OPD, OUSD and the community to better the lives of a very downtrodden group of citizens—African American boys at risk. Secondly, the types of services that are provided by the program aid in reducing truancy. The boys in the program are tracked weekly by the Program Team in regards to their whereabouts, behavior, and academic performance. Thirdly, the Oakland Police Department can enhance its image and relationships with the community.

The O.K. Program creates ongoing opportunities for the Police Officers/Program Coordinators to replace contention between African American boys and the police, with positive interaction. Finally, the O.K. Program is a model form of community policing, a strategy that Oakland citizens, the Mayor of Oakland and OPD have been striving for many years. The City of Oakland is likely to witness a notable downturn in criminal activity with the O.K. Program at full throttle. 70% of the criminal activity that takes place in Oakland involves African American males and this program is a constructive way of remedying the problem.

Conclusion

The purpose of this report is primarily informational; however, the O.K. Program Board of Directors and Program Team are requesting the following recommendations:

- The Public Safety Committee coordinate with the O.K. Program team to facilitate outreach in their communities and expand the base of the program.
- The Public Safety Committee assist in securing additional funds to support *current service delivery and expansion of the program including but not limited to any discretionary Measure Y funds that may come available to aid in funding.*
- The Committee assists the Program Team in securing resources such as office space and building strategic partnerships.

Respectfully Submitted

Leslie Littleton
Director, O.K. Program of Oakland