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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

2009 FEB 26 PM 3:07

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Dan Lindheim  
FROM: Fire Department  
DATE: March 10, 2009

RE: **Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to Accept and Appropriate Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) for Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Grant Period from State of California Homeland Security Grant Program for the City of Oakland, Office of Emergency Services (OES), Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) Program**

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**SUMMARY**

Staff is requesting that the Oakland City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to accept and appropriate the CERT grant totaling fifty five thousand dollars (\$55,000) applied for during the Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) grant period from State of California Homeland Security Grant Program for the City of Oakland, Office of Emergency Services (OES), Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) Program.

The grant funding will be used between October 23, 2009 – December 31, 2010, or until grant funds are exhausted to support the CORE program's one-time projects or program costs that enhance trainings and levels of participation by Oakland residents and the community. The CERT grant proposal for Federal Fiscal Year FY2008 has been approved.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

City Council approval would authorize the City Administrator or his designee to accept and appropriate funding in the amount of \$55,000.00 from the State of California's Homeland Security Grant Program to the Alameda County Grant Fund (2160) for the Oakland Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services (20711), Office Emergency Services/Homeland Security Program (PS21) with a Project Number to be assigned; the same amount of funds will be appropriated in the Miscellaneous State Grants Account (46229). The grant period is October 23, 2008 until December 31, 2010 or until the grant funds are exhausted. At this time, this grant award has no matching fund requirement for the City.

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Special project or one-time program costs are eligible for reimbursement, but not recurring program expenses. These one-time expenditures paid by the City's General Purpose Fund can then be reimbursed by the grant. Any other costs (CSO, Contract Assessment fee, Central Stores, etc.) will be paid by the grant or with funds available in Fire's FY 2009-11 Adopted Budget. Accordingly, funds are available in OES's operating budget in Fund 1010, Organization 20711, to support the projects described herein and offset the costs that can not be reimbursed by the grant.

## **BACKGROUND**

Since September 11, 2001, professional organizations have worked together with service organizations and volunteers to integrate their approach to personal preparedness and community-wide response to disasters. As a result, the President of the United States launched a national Citizens Corps initiative in 2002. This initiative covers a number of different programs, including Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

In April 2004, Oakland's Emergency Management Board, now known as the Oakland Emergency Management And Disaster Preparedness Council (EMADPC), agreed to function as the City's Citizens Corps Council in order for Oakland to remain eligible for Homeland Security and other federal preparedness funds.

## **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

Operating under guidance from the Office of Domestic Preparedness, which is a branch of the federal Department of Homeland Security, the State of California's Office of Homeland Security currently administers the Citizens Corps Program. A "local control" philosophy was adopted to allow individual jurisdictions to tailor Citizen Corps programs to their specific structures within general guidelines that supported statewide consistency. As such, the State chose each County Operational Area as a means to both award and administer CERT grant funding to their eligible jurisdictions.

CERT training has always been the "backbone" of the national program. The City of Oakland's nationally recognized CERT program is the Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies, also known as the CORE program. A majority of the grant funding will be used to enhance the CORE program by developing a pilot part-time trainers program to expand training classes, outreach to communities, specifically in East and West Oakland, as well as to continue to expand Individual and Family Preparedness Training programs in Spanish, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese and Cantonese.

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## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

In an effort to reach a wider community audience in Oakland the Oakland Fire Department will develop a pilot program to establish temporary, part-time multi-lingual CORE trainers who will be used to increase the number of trained residents and community members in Individual and Family Preparedness. OES staff developed and submitted a proposal for the grant funding request to Alameda County OES to obtain the CERT grant funds that were awarded for FY 2008. The grant funds will be used to subsidize the cost of this pilot program and also to expand outreach efforts to areas of Oakland that do not normally participate in the CORE program (East and West Oakland). In addition the funding will be used to develop a media campaign that promotes community emergency preparedness actions and the CORE program.

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** In emergencies, CORE neighborhood teams provide valuable support to first responders, emergency management agencies, and organizations like the American Red Cross. CORE members are trained to evaluate, control, and organize situations until emergency help arrives. Some minor emergency situations may be resolved without utilizing emergency personnel. This initiative will help speed up economic recovery.

***Environmental:*** CORE training provides the community with members who have the skill to mitigate various hazards, including those that are environmental in nature.

***Social Equity:*** CORE teams promote an increase in community preparedness and safety. A neighborhood that is informed of and trained in the principles of CORE can help keep the community safer. Specifically, funds from this grant will be used to implement a pilot program that is focused on expanding individual family emergency preparedness training in Oakland, especially in areas that do not regularly participate such as East and West Oakland. The goal of the grant funding for this pilot program is to hire temporary, part-time trainers that can provide outreach to areas in the City that have low participation in CORE, similar to the program's efforts in the Asian and Hispanic communities. The expansion of the CORE program will continue to be provided in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese and Cantonese.

**DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

The CORE program is inclusive of all Oakland residents and community members. CORE supports training specifically for senior citizens as well as persons with disabilities and strongly supports the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable laws.

**RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE**

Staff recommends that the City Council accept the report and approve the accompanying resolution authorizing the City Administrator or his designee to accept the CERT grant totaling \$55,000 and appropriate these funds to the Oakland Fire Department's, Office of Emergency Services (OES).

City Council's acceptance and approval will allow OES to receive funding for enhancements to the CORE program and to other Citizen Corps type programs sponsored through its Emergency Management And Disaster Preparedness Council (EMADPC).

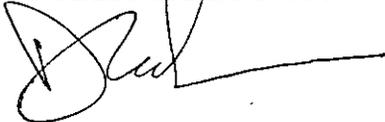
Respectfully submitted,



GERALD A. SIMON  
Fire Chief  
Fire Department

Prepared by:  
Renee Domingo,  
Emergency Services Manager  
Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:



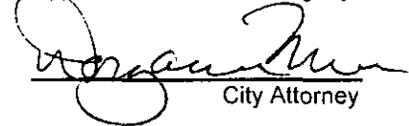
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Approved as to Form and Legality

  
City Attorney

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$55,000) FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2008 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) GRANT PERIOD FROM STATE OF CALIFORNIA HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) COMMUNITIES OF OAKLAND RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES (CORE) PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland and the Oakland City Council are committed to improving community emergency preparedness by providing citizens with the training and skills to sustain themselves and assist family members, neighbors, coworkers, and others until emergency personnel arrive; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland and the Oakland City Council are committed to improving local government's emergency preparedness through ongoing support of its Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness Council, which is Oakland's Disaster Council as prescribed by the California Emergency Services Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States established a Citizen Corps program to assist individual states with the development of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Citizen Corps Councils; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Domestic Preparedness, a branch of the federal Department of Homeland Security, provides the States with Homeland Security grants to fund a range of domestic preparedness initiatives, including the Citizens Corps program; and

**WHEREAS**, through the State of California's Homeland Security grant program, the State has allowed local jurisdictions to tailor Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs to meet the specific needs of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alameda County Operational Area is awarding and administering the grant to Alameda County jurisdictions for their local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is called the Communities of Oakland's Respond to Emergencies (CORE) program; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland's Office of Emergency Services has requested and been awarded a grant totaling \$55,000.00 to support its CERT program and there is no match requirement or additional General Purpose Fund appropriation necessary for indirect costs, such as Central Service Overhead (CSO), Central Stores, Contract Assessment, etc.; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or his designee to accept and appropriate funding in the amount of fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00) from the State of California's Homeland Security Grant Program to the Alameda County Grant Fund (2160) for the Oakland Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services (Organization 20711) Communities Of Oakland Respond To Emergencies (CORE) Program, various miscellaneous expenditure accounts, in a project to be determined, and the Office of Emergency Services/Homeland Security Program (PS21); and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the grant funds will be deposited into the same fund, organization, project and program, and miscellaneous state grants account (46229); and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Council hereby appoints the City Administrator, or his designee, as its agent to execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, payment requests, that may be necessary for the completion of the Project.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

- AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT BRUNNER
- NOES -
- ABSENT -

ATTEST:

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