

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

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
2005 APR 14 PM 5:31

TO: Office of the City Administrator  
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly  
FROM: Fire Department  
DATE: April 26, 2005

RE: **A Report and Resolution to Accept and Appropriate a Grant for Thirty-Five Thousand Twenty-Nine Dollars and Eighty-Four Cents (\$35,029.84) for the Period December 1, 2004 to October 31, 2005 from the State of California's Homeland Security Grant Program for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Enhancement and Citizen Corps Council Projects, Awarded and Administered by the Alameda County Operational Area to the Oakland Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services (OES) for the City of Oakland's Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) Program and its Emergency Management Board (EMB); and, if CERT Grant Funding is Increased, Authorizing the City Administrator to Accept and Appropriate Additional Funds Without Return to Council**

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**SUMMARY**

Staff is requesting that the Oakland City Council approve a resolution to accept and appropriate \$35,029.84 from the State of California's Homeland Security grant program which has been awarded by the Alameda County Operational Area to the Oakland Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services (OES) for enhancements to the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, known as Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies, (CORE), and to the City's Citizens Corps Council, which is its Emergency Management Board (EMB).

**FISCAL IMPACTS**

This grant does not require matching funds from the City. Expenses are paid by the City and then reimbursed by the grant. Funds are available in OES's operating budget to support the projects described herein.

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The proposed resolution authorizes appropriation of \$35,029.84 in State Homeland Security grant funds, administered by Alameda County, to the Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services (Fund 2160, Organization 20711, Project Number to be assigned.)

In the event that Alameda County, as the grant administrator, is able to increase this amount, the proposed resolution also authorizes acceptance of additional funds.

## **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) and Citizens Corps Councils (CCC).

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 and CCC funding to their eligible jurisdictions.

## **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

The federal Department of Homeland Security is providing Citizens Corps grants to states for federal Fiscal Year 2004. Operating under guidance from the State of California's Homeland Security grant program, Alameda County Operational Area has directed that the spending period for this grant is December 1, 2004 through October 31, 2005.

CERT training has always been the "backbone" of the national program. The City of Oakland's nationally recognized CERT program is the Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE). A majority of the grant funding will be used to enhance the CORE program by updating and producing CORE training materials in English, Spanish, and Chinese; implementing additional CORE advanced-skill workshops; and training/supporting CORE groups to conduct neighborhood exercises.

In April 2004, Oakland's Emergency Management Board agreed to function as the City's Citizens Corps Council in order for Oakland to remain *eligible for some portion of these* federal funds. The Emergency Management Board (EMB) will use its portion of grant funding to host Oakland's second emergency preparedness seminar for people with

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disabilities; partner with American Red Cross to promote business continuity planning for small businesses; expand membership on the EMB to include a few additional response partners among big businesses and non-profit organizations; and create the City's plan to manage convergent volunteers during a disaster.

## SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

**Economic:** In emergencies, CORE members and their teams can 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 situations may be resolved without utilizing emergency personnel.

Generally, members of Oakland's Emergency Management Board provide direct support to Oakland's response and recovery efforts during a disaster, thereby mitigating economic impacts as much as practicable. EMB members include outside agencies like BART, AC Transit, PG&E, EBMUD, SBC, Oakland Unified School District, Red Cross, amateur radio operators, Port of Oakland and others, as well as city departments.

Specifically, grant funding for business continuity planning is intended to provide small businesses with the basic planning and preparedness information they need to sustain operations after a disaster. Grant funding to create Oakland's plan to manage volunteers who spontaneously come forward to help their communities in time of disaster will allow the City to make effective use of their time and talents. Both initiatives will speed up economic recovery.

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

With its all-hazards approach, the Emergency Management Board, which is Oakland's Disaster Council under California's Emergency Services Act, makes resources available to Oakland to help mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

**Social Equity:** CORE teams promote an increase in community preparedness and safety with non-emergency projects. A neighborhood that is informed of and trained in the principles of CORE can keep the community safer. Specifically, funds from this grant will be used to publish updated CORE manuals in Spanish and Chinese, as well as English.

Sensitive to the needs of vulnerable populations, the Emergency Management Board includes a representative from the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities, members of the community, and a representative from Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters (CARD), a non-profit charged with emergency preparedness for special needs communities.

**DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

The CORE program is inclusive of all citizens in its training program. It does not conflict with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or other applicable laws.

Funding from this grant will support a workshop on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE**

Staff recommends that the City Council accept the report and approve the accompanying resolution authorizing the City Administrator or designee to accept the grant in the amount of \$35,029.84, accept any additional funds, if they become available, and appropriate these funds to the 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 programs sponsored through its Emergency Management Board for the grant period December 1, 2004 through October 31, 2005.

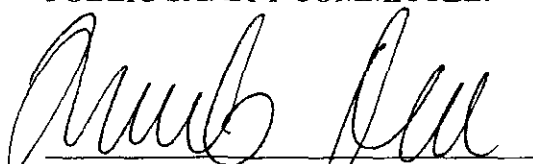
Respectfully submitted,



DANIEL D. FARRELL  
Fire Chief

Prepared by:  
Kimberly Shunk  
Acting Emergency Manager  
and  
Harriet Y. Wright  
Emergency Planning Coordinator

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

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Public Safety Committee  
Date: 4/26/2005

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
CIVILS  
OAKLAND  
*W. Moreno*

2005 APR 14 PM 5:31

A REPORT AND RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE A GRANT FOR THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND TWENTY-NINE DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-FOUR CENTS (\$35,029.84) FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1, 2004 TO OCTOBER 31, 2005 FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) ENHANCEMENT AND CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL PROJECTS, AWARDED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE ALAMEDA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA TO THE OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) FOR THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S CITIZENS OF OAKLAND RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES (CORE) PROGRAM AND ITS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD; AND, IF CERT GRANT FUNDING IS INCREASED, AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WITHOUT RETURN TO COUNCIL

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 Board, 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 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 and Citizen Corps Council projects 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) and Citizen Corps Council programs for the period December 1, 2004 to October 31, 2005; and  
WHEREAS, the City of Oakland's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is called the Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland's Emergency Management Board serves as Oakland's Citizen Corps Council as well as its Disaster Council; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services has been awarded a grant totaling \$35,029.84 to support its CERT and Citizen Corps Council programs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or her designee to accept and appropriate funding in the amount of \$35,029.84 to the Alameda County Grant Fund (2160) for the Oakland Fire Department's Office of Emergency Services (Organization 20711), with a Project Number to be assigned; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby appoints the City Administrator, or her authorized representative, 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; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That in the event that the Alameda County Operational Area is able to increase the original grant amount, the Oakland City Council authorizes the City Administrator or her designee to accept and appropriate any additional funds received for the stated purpose of the grant and to without return to Council; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That any agreement(s) executed shall be within the amounts funded and appropriated, and will 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, \_\_\_\_\_, 2005

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

- AYES-
- NOES-
- ABSENT-
- ABSTENTION-
- EXCUSED-
- RECUSED-

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
LATONDA SIMMONS  
Interim City Clerk and Clerk of the Council

Per \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy