

# CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

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**To:** Office of the City Administrator  
**Attn:** Dan Lindheim  
**From:** Neighborhood Services Division, Office of the City Administrator  
**Date:** November 12, 2008

**Re:** **A Report and Proposed Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator, on Behalf of the City of Oakland, to Accept and Appropriate Grant Funds in an Amount Not to Exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Community Capacity Development Office, in Support of Third Year Program Operations Associated with the Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative in the Office of the City Administrator**

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## SUMMARY

A resolution has been prepared authorizing the City Administrator, on behalf of the City of Oakland, to accept and appropriate a grant in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Community Capacity Development Office. The funds will be used in support of third year program operations associated with the Department's Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative. The proposed program period is July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

## FISCAL IMPACT

It is anticipated that the Neighborhood Services Division will receive federal grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the City's Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative. Revenues and appropriations will be allocated in the Federal Grant Fund: (2112), City Administrator's Administration Unit (02111); in a Program and Project Account to be determined. The program will be managed by the Neighborhood Services Division of the Office of the City Administrator. There is no match requirement. Of the \$99,032 directed toward Personnel Costs, \$60,943 is allocated to the Office of the City Administrator. The remaining \$38,089 will be allocated to OPD. Central Services Overhead (CSO) charges associated with the \$38,089 for salary and wages equals \$6,768, based on a 17.77% calculation rate. However, the granting agency specifically disallows CSO charges. Therefore, the Department requests a waiver for applicable Central Services Overhead charges. Approval of this waiver request will require the General Purpose Fund to absorb this cost. The Equipment allocation encompasses all associated expenses for equipment purchased. Expense allocations are as follows:

Personnel (one half of regular salary for one Coordinator, 48 hours of overtime for one Police Services Technician, and 560 hours of overtime for ten Sworn Personnel)	\$99,032
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Travel	\$6,700
Equipment	\$2,500
Supplies	\$1,992
Sub-Committees / Program Expenses	\$39,776
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

## BACKGROUND

Operation Weed and Seed was established in 1991 by the U.S. Department of Justice as a community-based, multi-agency partnership approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration. The goals of Weed and Seed are to control violent crime, drug trafficking, and drug-related crime in targeted high-crime neighborhoods, thereby providing a safe environment for residents that is free of crime and drugs.

In June 2005, the City received Official Recognition status for a new Weed and Seed site in East Oakland: the Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative. The target area for the Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative is comprised of Community Policing Beats 33 and 34, in census tracts 4094, 4095, 4096, 4097 (40%), and 4103; (bounded on the northwest by 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue, on the northeast by Bancroft Avenue, on the southeast by 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and on the southwest by San Leandro Boulevard). Official Recognition status made it possible to submit a competitive application for initial federal grant funding in the fall of 2005. The initiative received \$175,000 in funding for Fiscal Year 2006-07, \$200,000 in funding in Fiscal Year 2007-08 and is now in its third year of funding. The first year funding was overseen by the Police Department but the project was transferred to the Neighborhood Services Division in its second year, where it remains today.

## KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

### Elmhurst District – Historical Overview

The Elmhurst district was originally a small suburb of Oakland, officially annexed by the larger city in 1909. Its character is a working class bedroom community of mainly single family homes. A Ford automobile assembly plant, located on the site that is now the Eastmont Mall, provided employment for a mixed population of African Americans and Eastern European immigrants.

World War II brought further prosperity to Elmhurst, as Oakland became a major embarkation point for troops leaving for the Asian theater of the war; Oakland shipyards built one-third of the cargo ships built on the Pacific Coast, and its canneries provided 60% of the canned goods used by the troops overseas. Increasing numbers of African Americans, drawn from the south by the

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prospect of good jobs and greater racial tolerance, began buying homes in Elmhurst, and the area entered the 1950's as a prosperous, stable, multiethnic community.

Elmhurst's economic decline began with the closure of the Kaiser Shipyards in the 1950's and reached its nadir when the Ford Assembly Plant closed in 1969. The area's spiritual decline reached its lowest point nearly 20 years later, November 23, 1986, when the funeral procession of assassinated drug lord Felix Mitchell drew 10,000 mourners following an enormous wreath in the shape of a dollar sign. The shock of that event drew together religious and community leaders who began a series of community revitalization efforts that have struggled to reshape the community. Lockwood and Coliseum Gardens Housing Developments—the former domain of the Felix Mitchell gang—have been torn down and rebuilt into mixed income housing featuring both rental and owner occupied properties. Portions of International Boulevard—the community's major thoroughfare—have been revitalized, and the area is home to a large number of active churches and non-profit service agencies. Nevertheless, the community is still struggling to find its way.

The area immediately adjacent to Elmhurst includes the Port of Oakland, the fourth busiest container port in the United States, the Oakland International Airport, and the Oakland/Alameda Coliseum Complex, home of the Oakland Raiders football team, the Oakland A's baseball team, and the Golden State Warriors basketball team.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

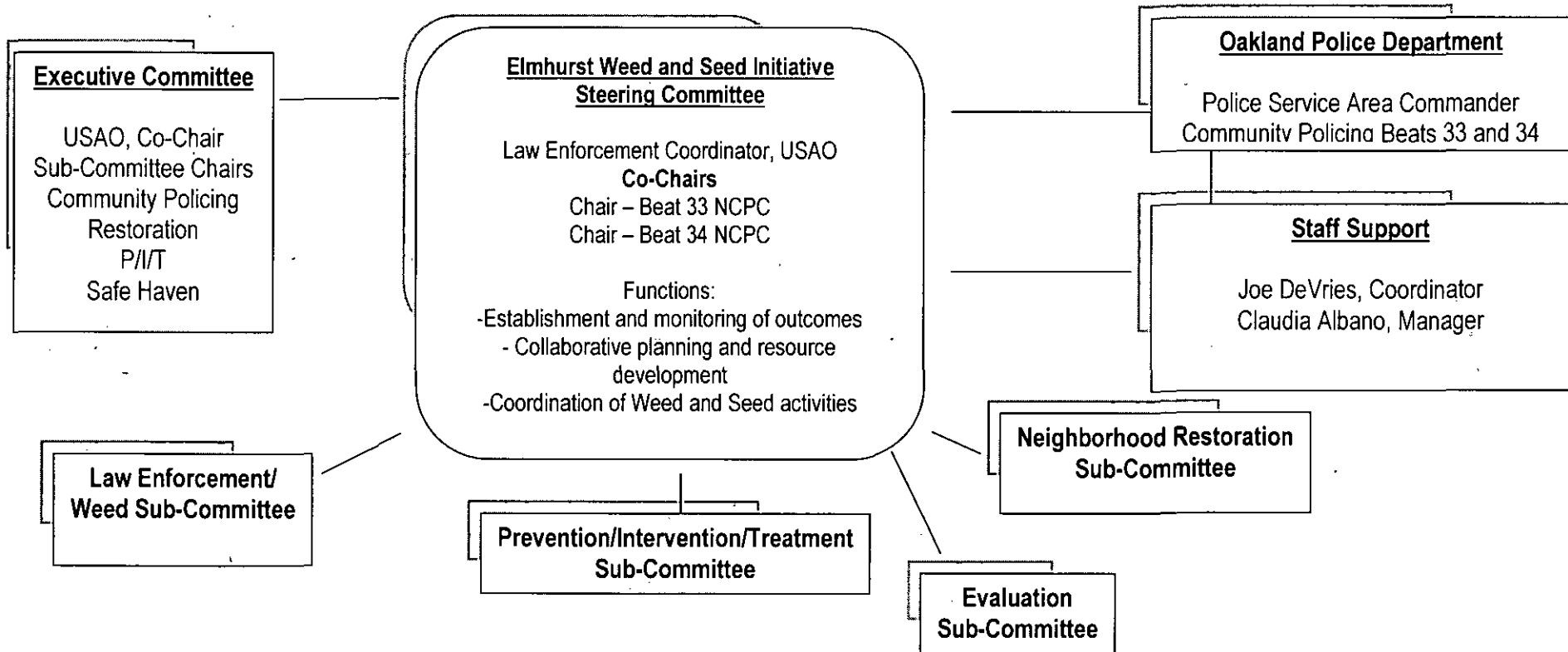
### Elmhurst Weed and Seed Steering Committee

The Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative (Elmhurst) is governed by a Steering Committee which is Co-Chaired by a representative of the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the chairpersons of the Beat 33 and Beat 34 Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils (NCPC). The Elmhurst Steering Committee is made up of NCPC representatives, community residents, and representatives of community organizations and public agencies serving the target area. The steering committee has responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the Weed and Seed strategy. Sub-committees focus on each component of the approved strategy. The Elmhurst Steering Committee meets monthly, and its sub-committees meet monthly to ensure effective coordination in meeting the goals and objectives established in the Elmhurst strategic plan.

Federal grant funds serve as a catalyst for the Elmhurst strategic plan by providing additional resources to assist the community in maintaining focus on the achievement of its short and long-term goals and objectives. The partners, identified and established in the planning process, provide additional resources to meet the needs of target area residents.

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### Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative Organizational Chart



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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The six basic components of the Weed and Seed strategy are Law Enforcement; Community Policing; Prevention, Intervention and Treatment; Neighborhood Restoration; Evaluation; and Safe Haven. Program goals developed in relationship to the strategic plan for third year Elmhurst programs are:

- **Law Enforcement**

- Goal 1: Reduce the level of drug-related crime within the community
- Goal 2: Reduce the level of domestic violence within the community
- Goal 3: Reduce the level of prostitution crimes within the community

In years one and two the Steering Committee created a working relationship with the Police Department and the Alameda County District Attorney to see that targeted enforcement activities are coordinated and effective. In year two, the Steering Committee was successful in collaborating with the DEA and The U.S. Attorney's Office. The U.S. Attorney will now apply federal standards to any case OPD presents to them involving parolees who are in possession of controlled substances and a firearm. These cases are given priority due to the huge impact of gun violence in Oakland.

- **Community Policing**

- Goal 4: Reduce the number of locations that are hot spots for drug sales and use
- Goal 5: Reduce prostitution along commercial corridors and adjacent residential streets

In years one and two the Steering Committee collaborated with the two Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils for Beats 33x and 34x to identify area hot spots and directed Problem Solving Officers to focus their enforcement efforts on these locations. The level of prostitution has decreased as have the number of robberies specifically along the International Blvd. Corridor that runs through the center of the target area.

- **Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment**

- Goal 6: Provide services for youth and families, including recreational opportunities, academic mentoring and support, job skills training, parenting classes, and leadership and "life skills" development
- Goal 7: Provide supportive services to at-risk adults in the community

The Steering Committee has funded a variety of effective programs in the target area during the first two years of this initiative including after school programs, nutrition classes, Drug Education for Youth Camp, and re-entry programs for ex-offenders. In Year two, the Elmhurst Weed and Seed Program provided \$22,500 to Men of Valor Academy and the Dr. J. Alfred Smith Sr. Training Center to assist ex-offenders returning to Oakland from San Quentin State Prison. Over 100 ex-offenders have successfully completed a Computer Training Class funded through Weed and Seed. Over 350 youth participate at the many programs funded by this initiative on a daily basis in the target area. This includes programming at the Elmhurst Library, The East Oakland Boxing Association, The East Oakland Youth Development Center, Precision Drill Ministries, and The Police Activities League.

- **Neighborhood Restoration**

Goal 8: Restore the community by encouraging home ownership and the rehabilitation of dilapidated properties

The Initiative sponsored a Home Improvement Fair and a Health and Safety Fair this past Summer both of which provided valuable resources to the community about home safety, neighborhood clean-up activities, foreclosure assistance, and personal health. Also, this fall, the initiative collaborated with Rebuilding Together Oakland in their annual Block Building Event during which 6 homes of low-income seniors were rehabilitated and the portables at Elmhurst Middle School were repainted.

Some members of the steering committee have worked closely with the City's Service Delivery System Team 6 to distribute information, provide enhanced enforcement, and clean-up activities along the International Blvd. Corridor.

- **Evaluation**

Goal 9: Develop a community revitalization vision and plan

Currently, the Steering Committee is working with the City's Residential Lending Unit to perform an asset mapping of the target area to assist residents in identifying a future plan for under utilized or vacant properties throughout the target area.

- **Safe Haven**

Goal 10: Provide children with safe after-school environments that provide stimulating academic, cultural, and recreational activities

There are three established Safe Havens that are in the target area and receive funding for programs from the initiative. These are: The Elmhurst Library, the Police Activities League, and The East Oakland Youth Development Center. Geographically, these facilities are in different

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parts of the target area providing local opportunities for residents without having to travel too far from home or school. In the third year, the Steering Committee hopes to develop even more safe havens to provide even greater access for residents.

### Community Resources

The Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative participants have identified a rich array of community resources for the project. These include:

#### **Schools**

- Highland Elementary School
- High Schools at Castlemont
- Business Information and Technology School
- Leadership Preparatory High School
- East Oakland School of the Arts

#### **Public Agencies**

- City of Oakland, Police Department
- United States Attorney, Northern District of California
- Alameda County District Attorney
- Alameda County Probation Department
- CalTrans
- City of Oakland, Fire Department
- Oakland Police Activities League
- City of Oakland, City Attorney's Office, Code Enforcement
- City of Oakland, City Attorney's Office
- City of Oakland, Community Economic Development Agency
- Oakland Dept. of Health and Human Services, Serious and Violent Offender Re-entry Program
- Oakland Public Library – Elmhurst Branch
- Oakland Housing Authority
- Alameda County Public Health Department
- United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency
- United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- United States Marshals Office

#### **Public-Private Collaboratives**

- Safe Passages
- Family Violence Law Center
- Donald P. McCullum Youth Court
- Humanistic Alternatives to Addiction Research and Treatment, Inc.

### **Non-Profit Organizations**

- East Oakland Youth Development Center
- East Oakland Boxing Association/Smart Moves Program
- East Bay Community Recovery Project
- A Collaborative Effort, Inc.
- J. Alfred Smith Sr. Training Academy
- Family Resource House of Unity

### **Faith Organizations**

- Allen Temple Baptist Church
- St. John's New Beginning Church
- Love Temple Missionary Baptist Church
- Amos Temple CME Church
- Men of Valor Academy

### **Neighborhood and Community Groups**

- Beat 33 Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council
- Beat 34 Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council
- International Boulevard Merchants Association

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Economic**

Grant funds shall be used to enhance service delivery in the Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative target area for the direct benefit of Oakland-based firms and community residents.

### **Environmental**

Environmental opportunities will be identified as program implementation continues to address such issues as neighborhood commercial revitalization, and the clean-up and mitigation of blighted properties.

### **Social Equity**

The Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative is a “social equity” program. Grant funds and other resources contributed by partnering agencies, and the volunteer work of community residents and businesses, are directed toward achieving increased service levels and long-term benefits for the target area. The program goals will be evaluated annually by the Elmhurst Steering



Committee, and the Committee will develop a plan of action aimed at sustaining the gains made beyond the period of Federal grant funding.

### **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

The Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative operates in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Older Americans Act. Meeting places are accessible and senior citizens are well represented on the Steering Committee.

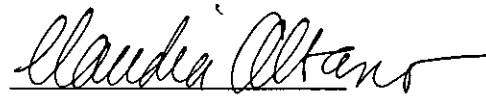
### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution authorizing the City Administrator to accept grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Community Capacity Development Office, and appropriate said funds to the Neighborhood Services Division. Staff also recommends that Central Services Overhead of \$6,768 be waived.

### **ACTION REQUESTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



Claudia Albano  
Neighborhood Services Manager

Prepared by: Joe DeVries  
Neighborhood Services Division

Office of the City Administrator

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO  
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

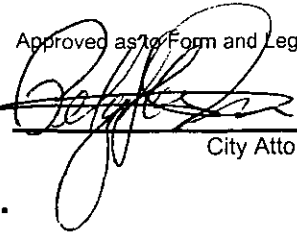


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# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Approved as to Form and Legality  
  
City Attorney

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

Introduced by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND, TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, COMMUNITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, IN SUPPORT OF THIRD YEAR PROGRAM OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ELMHURST WEED AND SEED INITIATIVE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR.**

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that grant funds totaling up to \$150,000 will be received from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Community Capacity Development Office, in support of third year program operations associated with the Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative in the Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice provides funding through Weed and Seed Initiatives as a community-based, multi-agency partnership approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for the Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative will assist in the Police Department's goal of decreasing incidents of violent crime, gang violence, drug trafficking, and drug-related crime in targeted high-crime neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed grant does not allow for any indirect costs (Central Services Overhead) in the amount of \$6,768, and the City Administrator has requested a waiver of said charges; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed spending plan will facilitate the City Council's goal of crime reduction through City-wide community policing and other strategies; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or his designee to accept and appropriate a grant in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Program, Community Capacity Development Office, to be allocated to the Federal Grant Fund: 2112, City Administrator's Administrative Unit 02111, in a Program and Project Account to be determined; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That Central Services Overhead charges in the amount of \$6,768 are hereby waived; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That grant funds received for the Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative shall not be used to supplant expenditures controlled by the City of Oakland; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Council hereby appoints the City Administrator as agent of the City to conduct all negotiations, applications, agreements, and related actions which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned grant agreement.

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