

CITY OF OAKLAND

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

To: ~~2010 SEP 30 PM 3:10~~ Office of the City Administrator
Attn: Dan Lindheim
From: Neighborhood Services Division, Office of the City Administrator
Date: October 12, 2010

Re: 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 Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Nine Dollars (\$156,979) From The U.S. Department Of Justice, Office Of Justice Programs, Community Capacity Development Office, In Support Of Fifth Year Program Operations Associated With The Elmhurst Weed And Seed Initiative, A Comprehensive, Community-Based Strategy For Local Law Enforcement, Crime Prevention, And Community Revitalization.

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 \$156,979 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, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

FISCAL IMPACT

It is anticipated that the Neighborhood Services Division will receive federal grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$156,979 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 a required match of at least 33% of the Federal Award and that will be provided as an in-kind contribution by the Neighborhood Services Division totaling \$53,662. Of the \$100,865 directed toward Personnel Costs, \$62,725 is allocated to the Office of the City Administrator. The remaining \$38,160 will be allocated to OPD. Central Services Overhead (CSO) charges associated with the \$38,160 for salary and wages equals \$5,205 based on a 13.64% 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:

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Personnel (one half of regular salary and benefits for one Coordinator, 40 hours of overtime for one Police Services Technician, and 555 hours of overtime for ten Sworn Personnel)	\$100,865
Travel	\$5,360
Sub-Committees / Program Expenses	\$50,754
TOTAL	\$156,979

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 81st Avenue, on the northeast by Bancroft Avenue, on the southeast by 98th 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, \$150,000 in Fiscal Year 2008-09, \$142,000 in Fiscal Year 2009-10 and is now in its fifth and final year of federal 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.

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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 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. 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

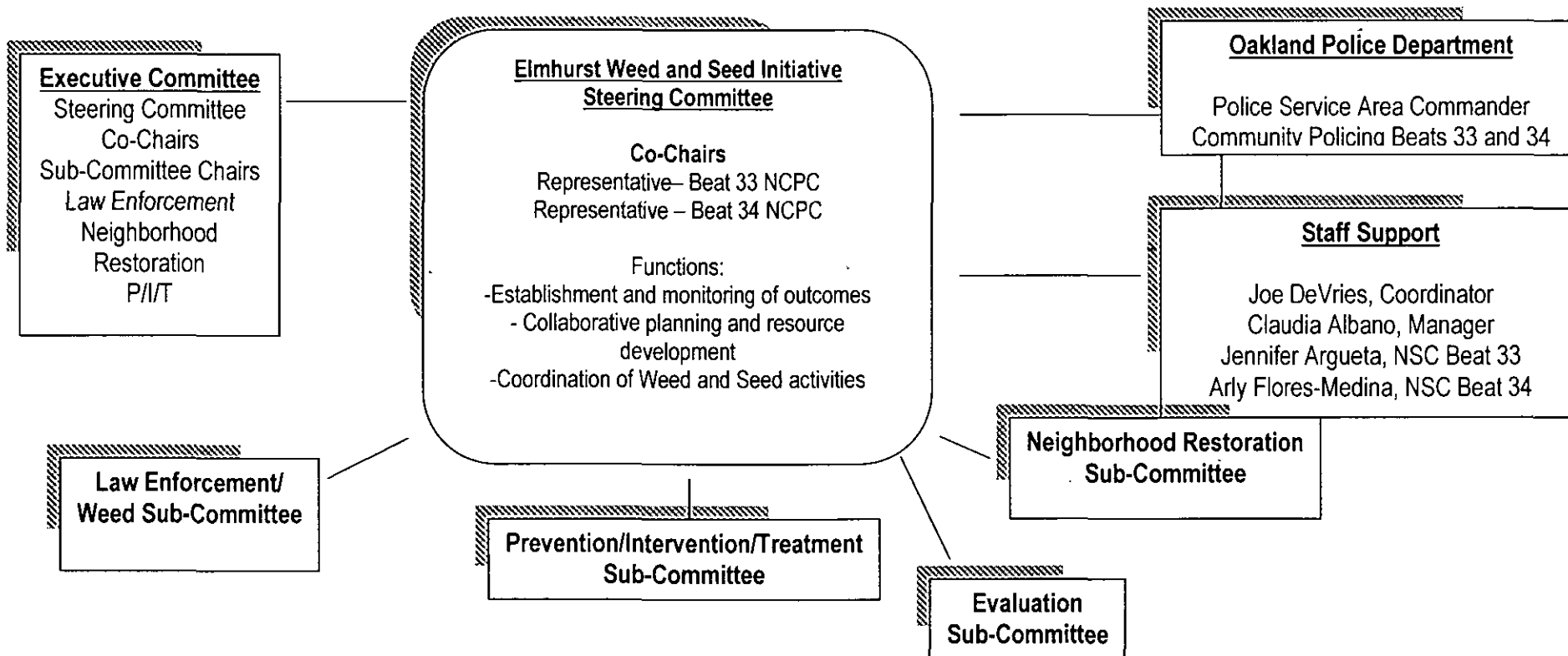
Elmhurst Weed and Seed Steering Committee

The Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative is governed by a Steering Committee which is Co-Chaired by residents from 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 the final year of 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

The initiative has dedicated \$186,394 to enhanced law enforcement operations in Beats 33 and 34 in the past four years. All of these operations were created based on input from the Steering Committee and were coordinated with other law enforcement agencies including the Alameda County District Attorney, the US Attorney, and the Drug Enforcement Agency. This coordination allowed for enhanced sentencing at the federal level, in certain cases, and ensured that the District Attorney would be able to coordinate with OPD and maintain a higher conviction rate. Seeking out and arresting serious, violent, repeat offenders was given high priority resulting in OPD's Police and Corrections (PAC) Team apprehending the most dangerous individuals within the target area.

In 2007 a major Weed and Seed Operation assisted in the arrests of 27 individuals involved with the Border Brothers Gang which operates in the area. This effort also recovered 35 guns and several pounds of illegal drugs. In late 2009 and early 2010 the Weed and Seed Initiative provided initial funding for a major sweep in Beats 33 and 34 that resulted in over 100 felony arrests and the recovery of over \$350,000 and 20 guns. This caused a noticeable decline in illegal drug sales at several drug hot spots.

- **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

By having Problem Solving Officers and representatives from the NCPC serve on the Steering Committee, the initiative was effective at selecting community priorities to work on (such as cleaning-up International Boulevard). Funding was provided for this high visibility, zero tolerance operation on International Blvd. and at other locations that have long been drug and prostitution hot spots. Due to this effort and subsequent research by the Problem Solving

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Officers, the officers discovered that the “Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution” or SOAP Boundaries had become outdated and did not include the area of International Blvd. below 77th Avenue. The PSOs were able to work with the District Attorney and have those areas expanded, adding to the tools available to law enforcement to address chronic offenders.

Due to the number of drug hot spots identified by the Steering Committee within the neighborhood, the initiative also has been successful in working with the City’s Nuisance Abatement Unit to hold landlords of problem properties accountable for the activity that takes place on their property. Over three dozen drug houses have been abated during the course of the initiative.

- **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 includes representatives of several youth-serving organizations, churches, and two organizations that provide services to ex-offenders to help them acquire the skills needed to be successful after leaving prison. Each year the Initiative uses a competitive RFP process to distribute funding to these organizations based on the priorities set by the committee. In the past four years, the initiative has provided \$213,570 to organizations serving youth and the re-entry population. An average of 250 youth and 100 ex-offenders per year received services using Initiative funding.

- **Neighborhood Restoration**

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

The Initiative has a Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee that focused its efforts in the past four years on home improvement, reducing blight especially on the commercial corridor, and encouraging better involvement in the City’s Redevelopment Agency projects.

In 2008 and 2009 the Initiative partnered with Rebuilding Together Oakland and helped to recruit home owners to be part of the Fall Block Building event during which several homes and a few public facilities were rehabilitated by an army of volunteers.

In each of the four funding years the Initiative sponsored Health and Safety Fairs at different locations throughout the target area. These fairs involved many of the Weed and Seed partners

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as well as OPD, the Alameda County Public Health Department, the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, and hundreds of residents. These events have provided an excellent outreach opportunity for the many programs in the area, and will continue with Weed and Seed funding in year five. The coordinator will seek additional sponsors to expand and sustain these events.

During the fourth year of funding many steering committee members advocated for greater involvement in the City's Redevelopment process. Specifically, members wanted to see a Project Advisory Committee created for the Coliseum Redevelopment Area. While that is a much larger process than can be achieved in one year, the Agency has committed to having a staff member serve on the Steering Committee and keeping members abreast of Redevelopment projects. This relationship has benefited the target area in several ways. First, the members have the opportunity to weigh-in on development projects, second, the youth serving organizations in the area have had the opportunity to compete for contracts to clean-up blight and remove graffiti, and last, the Steering Committee has been successful in securing Neighborhood Project Initiative money for projects in the area.

- **Evaluation**

Goal 9: Develop a community revitalization vision and plan

In the past year the Steering Committee has made progress in developing a community revitalization plan on three separate fronts: First, in the fall, members were briefed during two separate forums on the City's Five Year Redevelopment Plan and had the opportunity to comment on it. Some committee members went before the City Council to express their interest in increasing public participation. Second, the Committee was briefed on the City's Zoning Update and had the opportunity to comment on that as well.

Last, the Beat 33x portion of the area was selected as one of three neighborhoods where a Neighborhood Planning Program will be implemented. This will include training residents on land use and zoning methods and principles, having residents map out their specific neighborhood and use that mapping effort to make concrete recommendations to Planning Staff. Ultimately those recommendations will be uploaded into the City's General Plan, ensuring that neighborhood grassroots participation will be codified into the City's long term vision.

- **Safe Haven**

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

The Steering Committee identified and has worked consistently with three Safe Havens through the course of the Initiative: the East Oakland Boxing Association (EOBA), the Police Activities League (PAL), and the East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC). Each of the

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organizations has benefited from direct Weed and Seed funding and has played an active role in the Steering Committee, the many events that Weed and Seed has sponsored, and all three have increased their own participation with each other. The location of these three Safe Havens is geographically significant . On a map they form a triangle with EOYDC at the center and top of the target area, PAL in the bottom East corner of the area, and EOBA just outside the area boundary on the bottom West corner. This has been helpful in directing young people to resources close to where they live. Between the three organizations, hundreds of area youth have benefited from positive after school and summer programming.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic

Grant funds have 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 have been identified during the implementation of the Initiative including addressing blight in the neighborhood, providing funding for graffiti abatement, and the creation of community gardens at the East Oakland Boxing Association, and the Tassafaranga Recreation Center.

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 have been and continue to be evaluated by the Elmhurst Steering Committee and the Committee is in the process of developing 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

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Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution authorizing the City Administrator to accept grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$156,980 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Community Capacity Development Office, and appropriate said funds to the Neighborhood Services Division.

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the resolution.

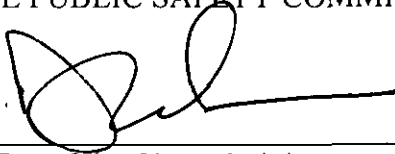
Respectfully submitted,



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:



Office of the City Administrator

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DRAFT

City Attorney

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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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 Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Nine Dollars (\$156,979) From The U.S. Department Of Justice, Office Of Justice Programs, Community Capacity Development Office, In Support Of Fifth Year Program Operations Associated With The Elmhurst Weed And Seed Initiative, A Comprehensive, Community-Based Strategy For Local Law Enforcement, Crime Prevention, And Community Revitalization

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that grant funds totaling up to \$156,979 will be received from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Community Capacity Development Office, in support of fifth year program operations associated with the Elmhurst Weed and Seed Initiative in the City Administrator’s Office, Neighborhood Services Division; 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 grant does not pay for Central Services Overhead costs in the amount of 5,205 and historically the City has provided an offset for Central Overhead Costs,

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 \$156,979 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 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, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT BRUNNER

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the
Council of the City of Oakland, California