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OAKLAND

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# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** FRED BLACKWELL  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

**FROM:** Sean Whent  
Interim Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Project Safe Neighborhoods  
(PSN) Grant Funds

**DATE:** February 14, 2014

City Administrator  
Approval

Date 3-12-14

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 5, 6 & 7

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Administrator or designee, on behalf of the City of Oakland (City), to accept and appropriate grant funds in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to fund Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a Ceasefire strategy by the Oakland Police Department (OPD).

## OUTCOME

Adoption of this resolution authorizes the City Administrator to accept and appropriate the PSN grant funding to continue with the implementation of the Ceasefire strategy, which focuses on reducing gang and group related homicides in East Oakland (High Street to the San Leandro border), decreasing the recidivism rate, and improving community-police relationships.

OPD will use funding from the PSN Grant to:

- Partially fund the existing positions of full-time Project Manager and Project Assistant for an eighteen-month period (January 1, 2014 – June 1, 2015) to implement the three goals of the Ceasefire strategy (reduce gang/group related shootings and homicides; decrease the recidivism rate among participants and their networks; improve community-police relationships);
- Use data to enhance existing Ceasefire intervention and enforcement partnerships;
- Ensure that the strategy is implemented correctly through the use of technical advisors;
- Engage in community outreach with individuals most impacted by shootings and homicides;
- Share information internally and externally using data sharing software.
- Purchase supplies and equipment for the strategy.

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**BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

PSN is designed to create safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in crime associated with gang and gun violence. The program's effectiveness is based on the cooperation of local, state, and federal agencies engaged in a unified approach led by the U.S. Attorney (USA) in each district. The USA is responsible for establishing a collaborative PSN task force of federal, state, and local law enforcement and other community members to implement gang and gun crime enforcement as well as intervention and prevention initiatives within the district. Through the PSN task force, the USA will implement the five design features of PSN—partnerships, strategic planning, training, outreach, and accountability—to address specific gun and gang crime problems in that district.

**ANALYSIS**

Ceasefire is considered a national best practice that focuses on reducing gang/group related shootings and homicides. When implemented accurately and sustained, it not only improves community relationships but can also be applied to crimes other than shootings and homicides. In 2013 when this strategy was implemented effectively, Oakland saw a 28% decline in homicides and a 16% decline in shootings (see Table 1). In the East Oakland focus area staff saw a 27% decline in homicides and a 12% decline in shootings (see Table 2).

**Table 1. Citywide reduction of violent crime, 2012 – 2013.**

	2012	2013	% Change from 2012
<b>Murders</b>	126	90	-29%
<b>Shootings</b>	557	469	-16%
<b>Total</b>	683	559	-18%

**Table 2. Reduction of violent crime, East Oakland focus area, 2012 – 2013.**

	2012	2013	% Change from 2012
<b>Murders</b>	71	52	-27%
<b>Shootings</b>	341	299	-12%
<b>Total</b>	412	351	-15%

For cities like Oakland with significant crime problems and limited resources, Ceasefire is an ideal approach, helping police departments utilize data and intelligence to prioritize their limited resources on the small percentage of people committing violence. Using this approach, cities are not only able to reduce crime but also are able to work with and demonstrate to the community that their actions have been fair and informed rather than arbitrary.

The PSN grant will allow the partnership to continue effective implementation of the strategy. It will also allow OPD to execute some of the plans and visions that resulted from the trust building work that began in 2013.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**

Reducing homicides and shootings is of utmost importance to the citizens of Oakland. Since 1969, Oakland has averaged a homicide rate of 107 – 109 annually (more than 3,000 people have been killed over this 45-year time period). However, what this number does not include is the thousands of children whose lives have been permanently affected by the loss of their fathers, and the countless mothers and grandmothers left to pick up the pieces for future generations. A vast majority of these homicides have been directly attributed to gun violence. Moreover, many community, faith-based groups, and members of the City Council have expressed interest in implementing this strategy to reduce gun violence.

### **COORDINATION**

The Budget Office and the City Attorney's Office were consulted in preparation of this report.

### **COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS**

This should include

1. AMOUNT OF RECOMMENDATION/COST OF PROJECT:

Project Delivery	\$450,000
CalEMA Administration	\$50,000
Total Project Costs	\$500,000

2. COST ELEMENTS OF AGREEMENT/CONTRACT:

Administrative Fees (CalEMA)	\$50,000
Sub Project/Phases	\$76,082
Evaluation	\$35,090
Management	\$217,769
Personnel	\$104,528

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Software	\$8,531
Community Training & Stipends	\$4,000
Messaging	\$3,000
Equipment & Supplies	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL AGREEMENT/CONTRACT AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

3. SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Funding will be appropriated to the City of Oakland's State of California Grant Fund (2158), Office of the Chief of Police (101110), Administration Program (PS01), and project to be determined.

Additional funding for personnel costs will come from funds already allocated from the Measure Y Reserve.

4. FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of this resolution will authorize the City to accept and appropriate grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 from the BJA to fund the continued implementation of the Ceasefire strategy for an 18-month period (January 1, 2014 – June 1, 2015). OPD will work directly with the BJA to ensure that the City is able to maximize the full amount of the \$500,000 grant award.

This grant specifically disallows central services overhead for sub recipients. The City of Oakland is the sub recipient of this grant and CalOES is the recipient.

**FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT**

With an average annual homicide rate between 107 to 109, the Oakland City Council has unanimously agreed that public safety is their top priority. If we are unsuccessful in our request for funding through the mid-cycle budget process, fundraising, or with the use of Measure Y reserve funds, we will have to scale back on case management and incentives.

**PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

In 2009, OPD was awarded \$100,000 from the BJA. However, the grant was specifically for the purchase of ballistics equipment for the OPD Crime Lab.

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**SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Economic:** As crime rates decrease, Oakland becomes a more attractive market for business investment and home ownership. Both of these factors directly impact revenue and the City's general fund.

**Environmental:** There are no environmental issues associated with this report.


**Social Equity:** Certain parts of the City continue to be disproportionately impacted by shootings and homicides. It is unethical to ignore these inequities that literally result in death or long-term incarceration for Oakland residents.

**CEQA**

This report is not a project under CEQA.

For questions regarding this report, please contact REYGAN E. HARMON, CEASEFIRE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, at (510) 777-8675.

Respectfully submitted,



SEAN WHEENT  
Interim Chief of Police  
Oakland Police Department

Prepared by:  
Reygan E. Harmon, Ceasefire Project Director  
Oakland Police Department

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## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR OR HIS DESIGNEE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND (CITY), TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000) FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA), TO FUND PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (PSN), A CEASEFIRE STRATEGY BY THE OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT (OPD).**

**WHEREAS**, grant funds of up to \$500,000 from the U.S DOJ/BJA have been awarded to OPD to partially fund the implementation of the Ceasefire strategy for an eighteen-month period (January 1, 2014 – June 1, 2015); and

**WHEREAS**, grant funds will be used to partially fund the technical assistance contract with the California Partnership for Safe Communities (CPSC); strategy evaluation by Dr. Anthony Braga; training and outreach with community partners; an outreach campaign; purchase of equipment and supplies; box.com file sharing service; and personnel cost for the existing project manager and project assistant; and

**WHEREAS**, the USDOJ/BJA grant funds are awarded through the PSN program, a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to local police departments utilizing data driven methods to reduce gun and gang violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Oakland has historically had an annual homicide rate of 107 – 109, a majority of which are caused by gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Ceasefire is a nationally recognized best practice for reducing gun violence perpetrated by groups/gangs; and

**WHEREAS**, Central Services overhead is specifically disallowed because the City of Oakland is a sub-recipient of this grant and Cal OES is the recipient of the grant; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That PSN funds shall be held in the State of California Grant Fund (2158), Office of the Chief of Police (101110), Administration Program (PS01), and project to be determined; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator or his designee is authorized to accept and appropriate USDOJ/BJA Program grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$500,000; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator or his designee is authorized to conduct all negotiations, applications, agreements, and related actions that may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned grant.

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

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES - BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF, AND  
PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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