

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: April 7, 2008

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: Recommendation for a new City Council Youth, Families & Neighborhoods Ad Hoc Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council

1. Transfer the responsibilities of the Committee on Youth Development and Violence Prevention from the current multi-jurisdictional Committee to a new City Council Youth, Families & Neighborhoods Ad Hoc Committee. Membership to the Ad Hoc Committee will be comprised of four Councilmembers.
2. Recognize that the City Manager will establish a Working Group of city employees charged with carrying out the objectives of the new Ad Hoc Committee;
3. Approve a journal voucher appropriating \$50,000 from the unappropriated General Fund balance to non-departmental account to cover anticipated expense necessary to carry-out the goals and objectives of the Council Ad Hoc Committee which may include consultant services;
4. Request that the Council Ad Hoc Committee provide an interim report to the full City Council within six months and a final report within one year; and
5. Upon acceptance of the final report by City Council, dissolve the Youth, Families, & Neighborhood Ad Hoc Committee.

BACKGROUND:

On September 17, 2007, the City Council established an Ad Hoc Committee on Youth Development and Violence Prevention. The expressed intentions were to bring about a multi-agency collaborative effort to address the issues contributing to youth and gang violence in the shared communities of Pasadena and Altadena. The original proposal for nine committee members was ultimately revised to 14 consisting of four representatives from City Council, three members from the Pasadena Unified School District, two members from Pasadena City College Board of Trustees, one member from the office of Supervisor Michael Antonovich, one member from the Altadena Town Council, one member representing the Faith community and two ex-officio members representing Senator Jack Scott and Assembly Member Anthony Portantino.

The purpose of the committee (as adopted in the September 17, 2007 City Council meeting minutes) was to prepare a plan or set of recommendations to reduce violence in the short term and to develop sustainable community-wide policy and infrastructure to maintain a safe community in the long term.

The Committee was directed to report back to Council monthly and to the other participating organizations as those organizations deemed appropriate. The Committee was given six months, unless otherwise extended by City Council action to present its final report. The first meeting was scheduled for the first week in October (October 4) and the regular meeting schedule of the first and third Thursdays of the month was established at that meeting.

During the six months that the Committee met, several community milestones were accomplished. The following includes some of the accomplishments of the Committee:

- The commitment and presence of elected officials and their representatives at all of the meetings were an unspoken but powerful message indicative of community leadership's care and concern regarding this issue.
- The violence that spawned the formation of the committee decreased significantly.
- A deeper knowledge of just how expansive the issues are was highlighted and publicized and community members have stepped forward to assist.
- Young people, many of whom have felt ignored and invisible, were given an opportunity to have their voices heard with direct communication to community leaders.
- New and innovative partnerships with the City and the County looking at ways to increase employment training and opportunities occurred.
- Numerous programs already underway in Pasadena and Altadena that are doing prevention and intervention work were highlighted and received favorable exposure.

- Direct communication with State Legislator's Offices regarding the current situation with vulnerable young people was established.
- The Neighborhood Outreach Worker Program (NOW) that began as pilot in the summer of 2007 seemed to be effective and a positive local model with which to begin to address short term issues with the Pasadena/Altadena communities.
- There have been regional and national programs and models that have been implemented that could be used as "best practices" models.

The magnitude of interests, talents and perspectives from the members of the Committee provided various solutions to any given issue surrounding violence in the community. The respective views from government, legislative, civic, educational, therapeutic and faith based representatives all brought to bear thoughtful, comprehensive discussions that resulted in the committee's tacit agreement that the problem of community violence is extensive and that no one approach is satisfactory.

Next Steps:

To accomplish what the Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee begun, staff is recommending the creation of a City Council Youth, Families & Neighborhoods Ad Hoc Committee comprised of four City Councilmembers. The Council Ad Hoc Committee will continue to rely on the collaborative efforts from the Committee on Youth Development and Violence Prevention members for ways to address the community-wide policy issues, maintain the communications with participating agencies, and provide forums for where the public can bring their concerns and recommendations for consideration.

The primary responsibility for carrying out the objectives of the Ad Hoc Committee will shift from the Committee on Youth Development and Violence Prevention to a Working Group established by the City Manager with city employees from the departments of Police, Human Services and Recreation, and Public Health. It is this Working Group that will develop the master youth plan, gather information on existing programs, determine where there are service gaps, and prepare recommendations to the Ad Hoc Committee. City staff will continue to build upon relationships developed with staff from Pasadena City College and Pasadena Unified School District so that they may also have a role in the Working Group. The Working Group will meet at least once per month and report to the Ad Hoc Committee every other month. A budget of \$50,000 is being recommended that will assist staff in carrying out these responsibilities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

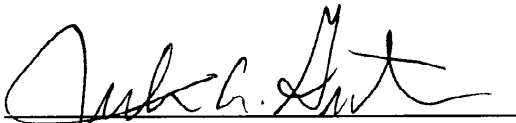
With the approval of the above journal voucher in the amount of \$50,000 from unappropriated General Fund, sufficient funding should be available for the Working Group to develop a master plan for youths.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bernard K. Melekian
City Manager

Prepared and Approved by:


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