



Memorandum

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor Ron Gonzales

**SUBJECT: National Institute of Justice
Grant Application**

DATE: February 13, 2006

Approved

Date

2/13/06

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the following actions to submit and receive a grant from the National Institute of Justice, an agency of the United States Department of Justice to support the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and enhance efforts to reduce gang violence in the community:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to:

- a) Submit a grant application to the federal National Institute of Justice (NIJ), an agency of the United States Department of Justice, to support the efforts of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force.
- b) Accept the grant, if awarded, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000
- c) Negotiate and execute any related documents.

BACKGROUND

San José is the Safest Big City in America as a result of many factors, including our successful community partnerships to address problems and identify solutions for protecting public safety.

The National Institute of Justice, a federal agency with the US Department of Justice, is offering opportunities to communities to address gang violence, drug crackdowns, and situational crime prevention. I recommend that we apply for funding from NIJ to support the efforts of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force that have successfully reduced gang crime and violence in our city.

Currently the Police Department, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department, and Community Crime Prevention Associates are working in partnership on a proposal. The NIJ application is due by February 15, 2006. The public safety

interventions grant guidelines highlight the need to submit applications to fund evaluations of existing programs or strategies responding to gang violence.

The grant application also requires letters of support from partner organizations. Members of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force will be asked to draft support letters to confirm their participation in efforts related to the City's initiatives included within the Strategic Work Plan.

Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force was created in 1991 to address the issues of community safety, specifically focusing on gang-involved youth. The Task Force represents a network of community leaders including law enforcement, parents, community service organizations, faith-based organizations, and schools. The collaboration has developed coordinated policies and programs that have become national models for effective gang prevention, intervention, and suppression.

NIJ grant funding would allow the City to evaluate current trends, expand current evaluation techniques and explore new ways to address gang violence through prevention, suppression, and intervention. In addition, it would help support the strategic goals in the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Work Plan. These include:

- *Strategic Goal #1* – Develop and implement an “asset-based” service delivery system aimed at connecting, coordinating and leveraging intervention resources. This goal includes tracking, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the accomplishments and effectiveness of programs offered through the Task Force's Technical Team and Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together grants.
- *Strategic Goal #3* – Develop and implement a comprehensive capacity-building strategy aimed at equipping task force members with the skills necessary to re-direct youth. This goal includes creating and implementing a fund development strategy that will generate non-City funding to support the City's intervention programs.

This report was coordinated with the Police Department, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department, and the City Attorney's Office.

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