



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert L. Davis

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: June 23, 2005

Approved

Date

June 24, 2005

Council District: 5 and 8

SNI: East Valley/ 680
Communities and
K.O.N.A.

SUBJECT: PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT FOR THE WEED AND SEED SITE

REASON FOR ADDENDUM

The Northern District of California United States Attorney released the Project Safe Neighborhoods Request For Applications on June 6, 2005. In order to meet the July 11, 2005 deadline for the application, staff is requesting that Council approve this memorandum at the June 28, 2005 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the Northern District of California United States Attorney's Project Safe Neighborhoods grant for the Weed and Seed site on the eastside of San José in an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006, to accept the grant if awarded, and to execute all related documents.

BACKGROUND

The Washington Weed and Seed site is currently completing its second and final year of its Project Safe Neighborhoods grant that funds the Drug Education for Youth (DEFY), a.k.a. Building Our Leaders of Tomorrow (BOLT) Program. This grant is part of a larger collaboration between the Northern California Weed and Seed sites to reduce and prevent gun violence among youth. This regional partnership is led by the Northern District of California United States

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Attorney and involves Weed and Seed sites in Oakland, Richmond, Rodeo, San Francisco, and San Jose. While the old Weed and Seed site in the Washington neighborhood plans to phase out its involvement by August 2005, the new Weed and Seed site on the eastside of San José has been invited to participate by applying for funds to implement the DEFY/BOLT program.

The grant program is only open to existing Weed and Seed sites for youth living in the Weed and Seed neighborhoods.

Each of the Weed and Seed sites in this collaborative selects approximately 40-50 youth ages 9-12 to participate in the program. The DEFY/BOLT program consists of the following three phases:

- 1) Pre-camp program of at least 12 hours of classroom curriculum focusing on diversity, gang awareness, resistance skills, solving problems peacefully, anti-gang and anti-violence education, self-esteem, goal-setting, and team building.
- 2) Ten day sleep-away camp in Camp Mendocino, which will include activities such as swimming, hiking, low and high ropes courses, arts and crafts, campfires and nature studies. These activities are all focused around building self-esteem, teamwork, and self-confidence in youth.
- 3) A year-long mentorship program with monthly activities which reinforce DEFY/BOLT concepts such as problem solving, self-esteem, team building, and goal setting, as well as anti-drug and anti-violence messages.

ANALYSIS

The DEFY/BOLT grant will enable the Weed and Seed site to advance its strategic goal to:

Reduce gang involvement by intervening and providing alternative services and activities that promote healthy, pro-social life skills and life styles for youth.

The Weed and Seed Steering Committee will recruit approximately 40-50 youth from the three Safe Havens, three public elementary schools and one private school in the Weed and Seed area. The Steering Committee will also work with the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force to select youth for the program. The recruitment effort will include developing a selection criteria and process for referring youth to the program. The Strong Neighborhoods Initiative staff teams assigned to the East Valley/ 680 Communities and K.O.N.A. neighborhoods will assist with recruitment and coordination of the program.

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OUTCOME

The Project Safe Neighborhoods DEFY/BOLT grant will support the Weed and Seed Steering Committee in reducing and preventing youth violence and gang involvement among youth in the Weed and Seed area.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Weed and Seed Steering Committee has approved the submission of the DEFY/BOLT grant application.

COST IMPLICATIONS

The City of San José will be reimbursed through the grant award from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement and Victim Services Division, which funds the Project Safe Neighborhoods DEFY/BOLT collaborative managed out of the Northern District of California United States Attorney.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Office's Strong Neighborhood Initiative, and the San Jose Police Department.

CEQA

Not a project.



ROBERT L. DAVIS
Chief of Police

RLD:MK:mk