



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mark Linder
Robert L. Davis

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: November 28, 2006

APPROVED:

DATE: 11/28/06

Council District: 5 and 8

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

**SUBJECT: THIRD YEAR WEED AND SEED GRANT AUTHORIZATION FOR THE
SAN JOSE NEIGHBORHOOD.**

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply to the United States Department of Justice for third year Weed and Seed Program funding for the San José neighborhood in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, to accept the grant if awarded, and to execute all related documents.

BACKGROUND

In October 2003, the City of San José applied to the United States Department of Justice Weed and Seed Program for Official Recognition (OR) status for Charles 3 police beat, hereafter referred to as the San José neighborhood. This neighborhood was chosen because it has the highest crime rate in all of San José. The geographic boundaries of this area include Story Road, King Road, Tully Road and Karl Street. This neighborhood lies within two Strong Neighborhoods Initiative areas, the Valley/680 Communities and the King Ocala Neighborhood Area (K.O.N.A.).

The focus of the Weed and Seed program is to “weed-out” violent crime, gang activity, drug use, and drug trafficking in selected neighborhoods. Community resources are then used to “seed” the target area for social and economic revitalization and long-term stability. Weed and Seed consists of four strategies:

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- Law Enforcement
- Community Policing
- Prevention, Intervention & Treatment (including Community Mobilization, Education and Empowerment)
- Neighborhood Restoration

In July 2004, the United States Department of Justice Weed and Seed staff conducted a site visit to validate the data, strategies and partnerships outlined in the original OR application. As a result of the site visit, the San José neighborhood was designated as an Officially Recognized Weed and Seed site, and therefore, became eligible to apply for Weed and Seed funds. OR status lasts for five years, which makes the San José neighborhood eligible to apply for funding during that time period. The City must apply each year for funding, and the funding process is competitive and not guaranteed.

In September 2004, the City submitted its first year funding application for the period of October 2004 through September 2005; and in late March 2005, the City was informed that the San José neighborhood received its first Weed and Seed grant for the amount of \$175,000. In May 2005, the City submitted its second year grant proposal similar in scope to the first year grant, with an additional \$50,000 allocated toward a special emphasis chosen by the Steering Committee; in March of 2006 the funds were awarded.

ANALYSIS

Weed and Seed grant funding for the San José neighborhood will strengthen and increase targeted efforts by the Police Department; Code Enforcement; Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services; the Redevelopment Agency; and the community. The Weed and Seed program is a strategy as well as a grant program. It uses enhanced law enforcement, community policing and resident empowerment to make real and lasting change in targeted neighborhoods. Receipt of Weed and Seed funding would allow residents and community leaders, community-based organizations, local businesses, schools and City, County and Federal staff to coordinate efforts in implementing the strategy over the five years.

Receiving Weed and Seed Grant funding for the San José neighborhood will enhance and improve upon City efforts already underway in that area, including the efforts of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative. The Weed and Seed strategy will focus on six primary areas:

- Reducing gang activity
- Reducing drug and alcohol activity
- Reducing the truancy rate at local schools
- Improving the relationship between police officers and the community

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- Increasing family and youth support services (in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club, Most Holy Trinity Church, and local schools)
- Improving deteriorated infrastructure and housing assistance (in conjunction with the SNI Plans for the Valley/680 Communities and K.O.N.A. neighborhoods)

These priority areas will be managed as follows:

- The law enforcement strategy will focus on arrest and prosecution of gang members, drug dealers, and offenders who bring down the quality of life for law-abiding members of the community;
- The community policing strategy will target on improving the relationship between law enforcement and the community, providing intervention and outreach to at-risk youth and focusing on truancy abatement;
- The prevention, intervention, and treatment strategy will develop three Safe Havens and partner with local schools and other service providers to provide positive services for families and youth, and increase gang awareness education among residents; and
- The neighborhood restoration strategy will have the objective of improving the deteriorated infrastructure of the neighborhood and revitalizing the local economy.

The concentrated effort of each element of the Weed and Seed strategy on the problems of the targeted area, coupled with clear communication between all of the involved partners will lead to a revitalized and empowered San José neighborhood. The San José Weed and Seed Steering Committee oversees the implementation of the Weed and Seed strategies and provides a forum for communication and collaboration among the partners involved.

OUTCOME

The overarching goal of the Weed and Seed program is to reduce crime in the San José neighborhood. The Weed and Seed strategy is designed to comprehensively reduce crime through “weeding” activities and prevent crime through “seeding” activities. Over the next five years, the San José Weed and Seed Steering Committee will also strive to establish a network of partnerships and services that can sustain the Weed and Seed crime reduction strategy after the funding has ended.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**

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- Criteria 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criteria 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

The San José Weed and Seed Steering Committee includes representatives from the Dorsa Neighborhood Association, Valley/680 Communities and K.O.N.A. Neighborhood Action Committees; Story Road Business Association; Alum Rock Union, East Side Union and Evergreen School Districts; Most Holy Trinity Church, Boys and Girls Club (Smythe Clubhouse), California Youth Outreach, and Pathways Society; the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and Probation Department; the Redevelopment Agency; and numerous City of San José departments including Police, PRNS, Code Enforcement, Housing, and Department of Transportation. The Steering Committee has been leading the Weed and Seed effort in San José since its inception. The Steering Committee was responsible for developing and approving the final allocation budget for both the first year grant and the second year grant proposal.

COST IMPLICATIONS

The City of San José will be reimbursed through the grant award for Department of Justice approved costs.

COORDINATION

This memo has been coordinated with the City Manager's Office; San José Police Department; the Redevelopment Agency; and the City Attorney's Office.

CEQA

Not a Project.


MARK LINDER
Deputy City Manager


ROBERT L. DAVIS
Chief of Police

For any questions, please contact Cindy Ho at Redevelopment Agency at 408-795-1855.