



COUNCIL AGENDA: 4-21-09
ITEM: 8.1

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Ash Kalra
Councilmember Madison Nguyen

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 17, 2009

Approved

Ash Kalra *Madison P. Nguyen*
N.V.

Date

4/17/09

SUBJECT: CONSORTIUM FOR POLICE LEADERSHIP IN EQUITY

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve the recommendations set forth by the City Manager in the April 9, 2009 memorandum entitled "Consortium for Police Leadership in Equity." Furthermore, we ask the City Manager to:

1. Work with the Taskforce members to present alternatives to the Council to allow for a forum for continuing community dialogue. Suggestions could lead to a Community Public Safety Improvement Roundtable as the Public Intoxication Task Force comes to a close. The purpose of a forum is to provide an ongoing venue for the city and community stakeholders to exchange ideas, information, and suggestions as to how we can improve upon the delivery of public safety services to the community in a constructive and cooperative manner. Additionally, the San José Police Officers Association should have the opportunity to participate in the process of putting together alternatives.
2. Any forum should in no way interfere with or hinder the City Manager in pursuing a Memorandum of Understanding with the CPLE in regards to reviewing police practices in the City of San José. If the City does enter into an agreement with the CPLE, the work of the forum can and should continue independently of the work of the CPLE.
3. When and if appropriate, the CPLE may present an update to the forum as to the progress of the research and obtain feedback.
4. The forum which arises from the Taskforce recommendations should determine what information they should be provided in order to allow for an informed and meaningful process. The Taskforce request for 2007 PC 647(f) reports should be provided to the Taskforce as the transition to an alternative forum is created. The current budget situation should be considered to determine a timeline for providing such reports.
5. The work of the CPLE and those who decide to contribute to the research shall remain confidential for the purpose of conducting a complete, independent analysis and to allow for full participation.

6. All legal protections regarding confidentiality of records and/or personnel files should not be disregarded.

BACKGROUND

The City should continue to establish a formal relationship with the Consortium for Police Leadership in Equity. However, as the City moves forward, further community engagement is necessary in order to address evolving concerns, allow for a greater sense of credibility with the CPLE process, and to ensure that an optimal level of trust is maintained with the community.

The research and analysis that will be done by the CPLE will, hopefully, lead to constructive and independent feedback and suggestions, which will improve public safety. The CPLE is not designed to replace community engagement with the City and police department in regards to short-term, urgent issues that routinely arise in big cities. Therefore, another venue for meaningful dialogue can be helpful in the ongoing process of improving our public safety services. The forum can serve as this venue if everyone comes to the table in a collaborative, constructive manner.

Further engagement with the CPLE will be considerably more meaningful if there is full community participation from the onset. By bringing the community stakeholders together as we begin our relationship with CPLE, it is more likely to add credibility to the results of their research. This will allow for the City to respond confidently to the results of the research.

Ultimately, building trust amongst the City, police department and the community leads to a safer environment and allows us to move forward in improving the quality of life for all of our residents. This new forum can help in taking an additional step to build that trust.

cc: Lee Price
City Clerk

