



R&OGC AGENDA: 11-2-11
ITEM: H(2)

Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE **FROM:** Alex Gurza

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: October 28, 2011

Approved

Date

10-28-11

SUBJECT: SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution in support for the work Santa Clara County is conducting through their Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

At the October 19, 2011 Rules and Open Government, the Rules and Open Government Committee (“Committee”) discussed Councilmember Chu’s memo of October 5, 2011 requesting the City Council to adopt a resolution supporting the Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan. Also attached in the packet was a proposed resolution from the Santa Clara County Cities Association. The proposed resolution language is contained in Attachment A. The Committee raised some questions regarding what specifically was being asked of the Council. The Committee’s specific concern was the broad language within the template in which the City would “hereby proclaims adoption of the Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan...” As a result, this item was deferred until November 2, 2011 with direction to staff to research and determine what the City’s obligation would specifically be if the resolution were adopted.

ANALYSIS

The primary goal of the Santa Clara County’s Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan, (accessible at www.secgov.org/spac) which was initiated last year, is to reduce suicide attempts and deaths; empower residents to identify and refer individuals at-risk to appropriate resources; and improve the quality of life for individuals and their loved ones who are dealing with mental illness.

Staff contacted the County of Santa Clara to clarify what a city’s indication of support for the work Santa Clara County is conducting through their Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan is interpreted to convey. The County is requesting cities to look at the gravity of the situation. By acknowledging support for the County’s Plan, the City is acknowledging the deep impact that

Rules and Open Government Committee

Re: Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

October 28, 2011

Page 2

suicide has on its' community. By supporting the County's plan, the City of San José would be recognizing that suicide is a preventable death.

The County would, however, prefer the City to adopt a more proactive partnership with the County by committing to adopt the County's suicide prevention policy as its own. This would require the City to create an organizational structure and implementation planning process, including:

- o Develop a sustainable organizational structure for suicide prevention, which may include a steering committee, partner organization, community collaborative teams to implement strategy and full-time staffing;
- o Build on existing strategy implementation processes;
- o Identify roles and responsibilities within the organizational structure;
- o Enable resource development and fundraising; and
- o Maintain the spirit of suicide prevention.

Within the County's resources is a case study of a suicide prevention program implemented by the City of Palo Alto, called the Project Safety Net. The Project Safety Net staff includes a Program Manager, an administrative assistant and a fiscal agent as full-time staff members to facilitate the program.

Because of potential resource impacts to the City to develop a suicide prevention program, staff recommends that at this time, the Council adopt a resolution in support for the work that Santa Clara County is conducting through their Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan. Should the Council wish to consider the development and implementation of a City plan, that discussion could take place at the Council's annual Priority Budget Study session in February.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

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

By providing this document to the Rules and Open Government Committee agenda for November 2, prior to review by the Rules and Open Government Committee, this document will be posted on the City's website and interested public will have additional time to review.

Rules and Open Government Committee

Re: Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan

October 28, 2011

Page 3

COORDINATION

This memo was coordinated with Human Resources, the City Manager's Office, and the City Attorney's Office.



ALEX GURZA
Deputy City Manager



**RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY CITIES
ASSOCIATION, SUPPORTING SANTA CLARA COUNTY
SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLAN**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Cities
Association that**

WHEREAS, Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, in his 1999 "Call to Action to Prevent Suicide" stated suicide in the United States is a serious public health issue and the most preventable form of death; and,

WHEREAS, the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action promotes "*increasing the proportion of family, youth and community service providers and organizations with evidence-based suicide prevention programs*" (Objective 4.7); and,

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County loses an average of a hundred and forty individuals in recent years to suicide, and many other residents attempt suicide or express suicidal thoughts, making this a significant public health issue; and

WHEREAS, almost all Santa Clara County cities annually have residents of all races, gender, ages, and other social characteristics either express, attempt, or die by suicide, affecting many members of our communities, making this a community matter requiring collective action; and,

WHEREAS, it is essential to support the Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan goals to 1) reduce number of deaths by suicide, 2) increase awareness and understanding of suicidal deaths and what to do, 3) improve data collection, monitoring and follow up, and, 4) have residents respond to a person in need; and

WHEREAS, educating people on suicide risk factors, warning signs, and protective factors and removing stigma about mental health treatment, recovery and resiliency is enlightened action; and,

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, along with the leadership and staff of the Mental Health Department, the members of the Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee (SPAC) and the many public participants, has sought to prevent suicide by holding public meetings and discussion sessions and approving a county prevention plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Cities Association, hereby proclaims adoption of the Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan, and calls upon all cities, citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to join us in our vision to prevent death by suicide and create a healthier and safer community.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: September 9, 2010

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: BAKER, BRYANT, CASAS, HAMILTON, KLEIN, LICCARDO, MAHAN, MILLER, PERRY, PIRZYNSKI,
SUMMIT, TATE, WANG

NOES:

ABSENT: LIVENGOOD, PINHEIRO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Casas", written over a horizontal line.

David Casas, President

Santa Clara County Cities Association

September 9, 2010