

REPORT FROM

## OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Date: December 10, 2012

CAO File No. 0220-04542-0005

Council File No. 12-1846

Council District:

To: The Mayor  
The Council

From: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer 

Reference: Transmittal from the Mayor dated November 20, 2012; Received by the City Administrative Officer on November 26, 2012

Subject: **REQUEST TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH THE ADVANCEMENT PROJECT FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2013 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013, TO CONTINUE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOS ANGELES VIOLENCE INTERVENTION TRAINING ACADEMY (LAVITA)**

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### SUMMARY

The Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (Mayor's GRYD Office) is requesting authority to amend the contract with the Advancement Project for an additional year to support continued implementation of the Los Angeles Violence Intervention Training Academy (LAVITA). The proposed contract amendment is effective January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. The proposed contract amount is not to exceed \$200,000, subject to the availability of funds and compliance with City contracting requirements. Funding is available in the Fiscal 2012-13 Adopted Budget. In order to ensure uninterrupted and specialized provision of training and certification services, we recommend approval of this contract amendment.

The Mayor's GRYD Office implements gang prevention and intervention services within the City's 12 GRYD Zones and eight Secondary Areas outside the GRYD Zones. These services include programs that integrate immediate crisis response and intensive case management (intervention) with efforts to reduce the number of youth that are most vulnerable of joining gangs (prevention). The City's gang intervention strategy utilizes an approach that incorporates community-based gang intervention principles with individualized service provision programs to deliver a combination of violence interruption and crisis response support services in the designated GRYD Zones and outside targeted areas.

In December 2009, pursuant to a competitive bid process, the Advancement Project was selected to coordinate and implement LAVITA (C.F. 09-2017) and tasked with the following primary outcome goals: 1) Create an academy that encourages life-long learning of the Community/Crisis Intervention Worker (CIW) in five identified areas of competency, and 2) Develop a certification process that will direct the professional development of CIWs. Funding in the amount of \$200,000 was available in

the 2009-10 Adopted Budget, for a performance period effective for a one-year term from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, with the option to renew for two additional one-year terms.

In January 2011, the City exercised the first option to renew the Advancement Project contract in the amount of \$200,000, effective for a one-year term from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Fiscal Year 2009 Congressionally Selected Grant Program (FY09 CSGP) funds were utilized to finance the contract amendment. In January 2012, the Mayor's GRYD Office exercised the second and final option to renew the Advancement Project contract in the amount of \$200,000 for a one-year term effective from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. Funds were available in the Mayor's 2011-12 Adopted Budget for the second amendment. The total revised compensation for Contract #C-116646 was \$600,000.

Since its inception in 2010, LAVITA has offered a standardized curriculum and advanced training courses to guide the professional development of community/crisis interventions workers in the City of Los Angeles. In March 2010 the Advancement Project in partnership with the University of Southern California, School of Policy, Planning and Development, launched the first training class for LAVITA. The curriculum consisted of: 1) The Basic 101 Community Intervention Course (100-150 hours of instruction) covered a variety of violence intervention strategies designed around five areas of competency (Direct Practice, Personal Development, Applied Theory, Broader Policy and Concrete Tasks); and 2) The Six Continuing Education Modules (20-25 hours of instruction) includes such topics as conflict resolution, cease fire maintenance, professional supervision, gangs and intervention dynamics.

During Program Year One (2010), 25 participants completed the Basic 101 Course and were duly certified by the Professional Standards Committee. An intervention training seminar on fundraising and organizational capacity building was held in August 2010 and attracted 21 participants. A second Basic 101 Course was held in September 2010 and enrolled a total of 32 participants of which 28 received certification. LAVITA also provided supplemental training for 117 Summer Night Lights (SNL) community/crisis intervention workers (CIWs). In Program Year Two (2011), 54 individuals received Basic 101 Course training resulting in 42 participants received certification. Advanced training seminars were offered for the first time resulting in 11 individuals receiving certification. Additionally, 125 CIWs were trained for the 2011 Summer Night Lights Program. In Program Year Three (2012), 28 enrollees received Basis 101 Course training of which 21 received certification. This year two separate SNL trainings were held: one for 125 CIWs and the other for 27 lead CIWs to learn supervisory skills.

To date LAVITA has certified, through the Professional Standards Committee, 131 CIWs in the Basic 101 Course and developed a standardized certification process to professionalize the field of intervention work. Over the past two years, LAVITA offered advanced courses on various topics including mental health issues, domestic violence, substance abuse, capacity building and fundraising. Additionally, LAVITA has also provided supplemental training for over 380 Summer Night Lights community/crisis intervention workers. The Advancement Project is currently involved in efforts to restructure and strengthen training curriculum, enhance instructor capacity, engage alumni and broaden overall support for training in the field of intervention. In tandem with these efforts the Advancement Project has worked closely with the Mayor's GRYD Office to incorporate the Los

Angeles GRYD Comprehensive Strategy and intervention model of practice into the LAVITA training curriculum.

The Mayor's Office has indicated that the Advancement Project is uniquely qualified to continue implementation of the LAVITA training services, curriculum development and CIW certification process. This organization has demonstrated the expertise and knowledge of the City's gang population and related issues to successfully develop a violence intervention practicum and establish a certification process to standardize core competencies of community/crisis intervention workers. This has resulted in furthering efforts to professionalize the field and to meet the City's need for trained CIWs. To avoid disruption of the progress made thus far and facilitate continued revision of the training curriculum to align with the City's GRYD Comprehensive Strategy, this Office recommends the approval of a Third Amendment with the Advancement Project. The City Attorney concurs with the recommendation for this contract amendment.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Mayor, or designee, to negotiate and execute a Third Amendment with the Advancement Project (C#116646) for an amount not to exceed \$200,000, to provide services relative to the implementation of the Los Angeles Violence Intervention Training Academy (LAVITA) that are substantially similar to the Draft Amendment attached to the Transmittal, for a one-year term effective January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, subject to the availability of funds, compliance with City contracting requirements and approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality; and
2. Authorize the Mayor, or designee, to prepare Controller instructions and/or make technical adjustments that may be required to implement the actions approved by the Mayor and Council on these matters, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize the Controller to implement these instructions.

## **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

There is no additional impact to the General Fund. Funding for the contract amendment with the Advancement Project is available in the Mayor's Office Fiscal 2012-13 Adopted Budget. Approval to negotiate and execute the contract amendment would result in continued implementation of the Los Angeles Violence Intervention Training Academy.

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