

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

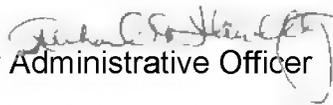
Date: October 5, 2020

CAO File No. 0220-05780-0000

Council File No. 20-1031

Council District: 8

To: Council

From: Richard H. Llewellyn, Jr., City Administrative Officer 

Reference: Motion (Harris-Dawson – Ryu) Relative to the Identification of Funding for the Hiring and Training of Community Intervention Workers for the Safe Passages Program in Two South Los Angeles Parks dated August 18, 2020

Subject: **REQUEST TO IDENTIFY \$220,000 IN FUNDING FOR A SAFE PASSAGES PROGRAM IN TWO SOUTH LOS ANGELES PARKS IN COUNCIL DISTRICT 8**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council note and file this Report.

SUMMARY

On September 16, 2020, the Council instructed the City Administrative Officer to identify funding in the amount of \$220,000 to support the hiring and training of Community Intervention Workers (CIWs) for a Safe Passages Program at two South Los Angeles parks in Council District 8 (C.F. 20-1031). Council District 8 (CD 8) proposes to contract directly with Community Build Inc. to implement this site specific activity. This Office reviewed possible sources of funds for this purpose, with the perspective of mitigating any negative impact on the General Fund in light of the City's current financial crisis. This report discusses possible funding options and recommends that the Council receive and file this Report.

A key potential funding source that was evaluated is the Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Program or gang reduction grants. Established in 2007, the GRYD Program utilizes a comprehensive, collaborative and community-wide approach to reducing gang violence through the provision of essential prevention, intervention, and re-entry services. The GRYD Program partners with 25 community service providers to support the City's GRYD Zones which are strategically aligned with Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) division boundaries. The Safe Passages Program, a component of intervention service provision, is administered by the GRYD Office and implemented by trained and certified CIWs to provide intervention and violence interruption services within their respective GRYD Zone communities. All GRYD CIWs are required to complete a unique and specialized training curriculum and certification through the Los Angeles Violence Interruption Academy (LAVITA)

comprised of 12 weeks (144 hours) of courses that include Personal Development Training; the GRYD Comprehensive Model Training; Incident Response Training; Standards of Conduct and Practice; CIW Communications and Role; Law Enforcement Interaction Protocols; Core Functions of GRYD CIWs, Data Management, and Mentoring. The GCP allocation for the 2020-21 GRYD Program is \$25.553 million, a \$3 million reduction from 2019-20. All funds have been allocated including grant awards and are not available for new expenditures.

Another funding source considered is the Summer Night Lights (SNL) Program, a GRYD program developed to provide safe and productive environments during peak times of gang violence to engage youth and their families in positive recreational, athletic, artistic and educational activities at park sites characterized by high levels of gang related violence, high levels of poverty and unemployment, and a high concentration of youth. Currently implemented by the Recreation and Parks Department in partnership with the LAPD and GRYD, last year's 2019-20 SNL Program was financed by General City Purposes (GCP) funds in the amount of \$1.688 million to finance GRYD SNL worker (local youth and residents) salaries and expenses at 32 park locations. This year, COVID-19 impacts required elimination of this funding and suspension of program activities for the 2020-21 SNL Program. Additionally, four of the SNL sites are currently operating as COVID-19 emergency shelter sites: 109th Street, Green Meadows, Normandale, and Valley Plaza. There are no funds available for new expenditures.

The Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds received by the City through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was another potential funding source considered. Staff at the Housing and Community Investment Department have indicated that CDBG-CV funds are not potentially eligible for the request from CD 8. Eligibility for CDBG-CV funds is determined by whether the proposed activity will "prevent, prepare and respond" to the pandemic. Other factors which require additional review include City funding priorities for the CDBG-CV funds, ability of the subrecipients to conform to federal grant reporting and other requirements, and possible additional resources required of the CD8 selected contractor. Council funding priorities for the CDBG-CV funds have not yet been developed. Other funding sources that may be considered are Council discretionary funds which, if available, may offer more flexibility for this purpose. Lastly, it should be noted that the Council and Mayor have set aside \$90 million in former LAPD funds in the Unappropriated Balance for disadvantaged communities among other potential uses (C.F. 20-0600). A separate joint report from the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Officer is pending regarding the use of these funds.

Due to the City's ongoing fiscal crisis and lower than budgeted revenues stemming from the coronavirus pandemic, our Office advises against the use of General Fund reserves for unbudgeted expenditures. In addition to the pending furloughs for employees of most City Departments, the report from our Office to the Budget and Finance Committee dated September 11, 2020 regarding the status of City finances (C.F. 20-0948) states that additional austerity measures will be required for the City to be able to meet its current 2020-21 Budget, including possible layoffs. Revenues are anticipated to be drastically lower than the 2020-21 Budget which all but ensures that current City programs will need to have their funding considered for reduction or possible elimination. Any new requests for funding from the General Fund should be made as part of the 2021-22 budget development process so they can be evaluated along with the City's comprehensive funding

priorities. Should the Council make a policy decision to approve the requested funding, our Office finds that the use of Council discretionary funds, if available, would be most feasible for immediate use. Alternatively, Council may choose to include consideration of this request in the reallocated Police funds for reinvestment to disadvantaged communities.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval to note and file this Report will have no impact on the General Fund.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendation in this Report complies with the City Financial Policies.

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