AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that in association with the Marshall Plan Project for Public Safety the City Council, by motion authorize the City Manager to execute an amendment to the City’s Agreement with the California Partnership for Safe Communities in the amount of $168,750, to support the creation of the Office of Violence Prevention and to continue support for the implementation of the Project Ceasefire program whose goal is to reduce the number of firearms and to reduce gun violence.

Summary

Over the last two years, the California Partnership for Safe Communities (CPSC) has developed a tailored and unique strategic framework to implement Project Ceasefire in Stockton in an effort to reduce the number of firearms as well as to reduce gun violence. Project Ceasefire is a critical outcome of the Marshall Plan Stakeholder Committee and has demonstrated success in its efforts over the past year to reduce violent crime levels in the community. With the passing of Measure A, staff recommends establishing the Office of Violence Prevention and amending the Agreement with CPSC to increase funding to assist with the staffing and organization of this new Office.

The Agreement that supports Project Ceasefire runs through September 2014. This amendment to fund professional services concerning the new Office of Violence Prevention will begin on July 1, 2014, and extend Phase Three of Project Ceasefire through September 30, 2015. Funding requested for this amendment is $168,750, thereby bringing the total amount of the Agreement since inception to $468,750.

DISCUSSION

Background

Project Ceasefire is a violence intervention model patterned after a program instituted in Boston, which has now been implemented across the country in cities such as Boston, Chicago, and Cincinnati. It is widely considered a best practice for violence intervention through multiple evaluations. Although results vary by city, in each instance there has been a significant reduction in firearms violence and homicides: for example, 63% in Boston, 37% in Chicago, and 35% in Cincinnati. The CPSC, led by Stewart Wakeling, has extensive experience implementing successful partnership-based violence reduction efforts in a variety of cities in California as well as throughout the United States.
One of the proposals from the Marshall Plan Stakeholder Committee collaboration was to contract with the CPSC to facilitate the implementation and institutionalization of Ceasefire in Stockton. On September 25, 2012, City Council approved an initial one-year contract with CPSC in the amount of $175,000 for technical assistance in establishing, implementing, and sustaining a Ceasefire Model within San Joaquin County but assuming a three-year phased approach. Phase I included a preliminary analysis of the local violence dynamic, an initial strategic plan rooted in that analysis and the development of basic operational capacities within the criminal justice system (enforcement, services, and communication). In addition to these basic operational capacities, key outreach efforts such as gang/street outreach and clergy outreach were set into motion.

The core concept of Project Ceasefire is to communicate a powerful anti-violence message to the highest risk individuals through "call-in" sessions. In these sessions, community and civic leadership deliver the message through professional facilitators that violence will not be tolerated in the community. The Ceasefire strategy also offers credible services and support, requiring the involvement of the full spectrum of the criminal justice system and community service organizations.

On September 24, 2013, City Council approved an amendment to CPSC’s contract in the amount of $125,000 for the Phase II implementation of Project Ceasefire. Phase II is currently being implemented and the City is now better able to respond to unacceptably high levels of violence through implementation of the Project Ceasefire intervention strategy guided by in-depth analysis, key outreach efforts, and enhanced operational capacities in the areas of enforcement, services, and communication among stakeholders. Project Ceasefire continues to be a core component in the spectrum of prevention and intervention programs growing out of the Marshall Plan process.

Present Situation

The existing agreement with CPSC covers the remaining implementation of Phase II for Project Ceasefire, currently slated to be completed in September 2014. With the passage of Measure A, there is a current need to expand the scope of services under the Agreement to incorporate CPSC’s assistance in forming a purposeful and strategic plan for establishing the Office of Violence Prevention. For ease of coordination and contract management, staff is proposing to sync up the terms of the two engagements and also include funding for Phase III of Ceasefire with this amendment.

The CPSC is uniquely qualified to provide these services given its familiarity with Stockton and the work of the Marshall Plan Stakeholder’s Committee. Through the remainder of Phase II and Phase III, the City will institutionalize Project Ceasefire within its operations and work in collaboration with partners in the criminal justice system without the use of significant additional resources. This project, representing an immediate response to the violent crime in the City of Stockton, would never have been possible without convening the Marshall Plan Stakeholder Committee. Creative collaboration has already emerged by convening this diverse group and exploring the various components of the criminal justice system through a comprehensive perspective. This outcome holds promise for what is possible for the criminal justice system and the community through the Marshall Plan process.

The Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) is designed to bring together the current Operation Peacekeeper efforts, Ceasefire, and support for mentoring and community-based violence reduction under one umbrella. The CPSC has presented staff with an outline of its proposed structure and
development of the OVP and is uniquely qualified to manage this process given its familiarity with Stockton and the efforts made thus far in addressing violence and gangs.

The proposed amendment to the Agreement with CPSC covers Phase III of the implementation strategy and will accomplish the following objectives: strengthen Stockton’s capacity to collect and analyze data on gun-related street violence in an effort to better identify those young people at highest risk of violence and address the strategic challenges of reducing violence in a context of limited resources; carry out strategic communications with the highest risk youth including a variety of forums and tools; continue the street outreach program and enhancing the ability to identify and address potential conflicts and tensions that might otherwise escalate into gun violence; improve capacity to connect low-income youth at highest risk of violence to viable employment opportunities, training, support, and other resources; and further improve the police-community partnership to reduce violence.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The original contract amount of $175,000 was increased by Amendment No. 1 for an additional $125,000 from the General Fund Police Department’s Special Investigations Section Account No. 010-2432-530. The cost of this proposed Amendment is $168,750 and will be split between the Police Department and the Office of Violence Prevention with $75,000 for Phase III included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2014-15 Police Department Budget and $93,750 included in the Office of Violence Prevention the budget from Measure A funds. With this amendment, the total contract with CPSC will not exceed $468,750 for services rendered through September 30, 2015.

Attachment A - Professional Services Agreement - Amendment No. 2