



Date of City Council Meeting: November 4, 2008

TO: Gary Keefe, City Administrator

FROM: TIMOTHY L. DABNEY, Chief of Police
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SUBJECT: APPLICATION APPROVAL FOR ANTI-GANG INITIATIVE GRANT

Recommendation: That the City Council:

Authorize the Lompoc Police Department to accept the Grant award from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) in the amount of \$30,000 to provide supplemental overtime funding toward targeted gang enforcement within the City of Lompoc between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009.

Background:

The City of Lompoc saw a 35 percent increase in population between 1990 and 2006. With that population increase, the gang-related crime grew exponentially. The Lompoc Police Department identified as many as 600 gang members and associates living within the City limits in 2006. In that same year there were 465 gang related arrests for a variety of crimes. Additionally, in February 2006 the Lompoc Police Department and the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's office obtained a gang injunction within the central part of our City that in recent years has been victimized by gang crime.

Unfortunately 2007 saw an increase in serious violent felonies in the City of Lompoc (as in the entire Santa Barbara County), especially in the portion of the City designated as part of the gang injunction area. Two homicides in 2007 were attributed to gang-related violence. There were several other stabbing and shooting incidents in 2007 that were investigated by members of G-NET (our five man Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Team) and the Detective Bureau. In a two-day period in August 2007 G-NET team members seized 7 firearms and a ballistic vest from gang members.

In May of 2007 the Lompoc Police Department submitted and received funding of \$63,672.00 from the United States Attorney General's Office titled the Anti-Gang Initiative. The grant was used to fund overtime pay for teams of officers to conduct gang-suppression and enforcement strategies in the City. As a result of the efforts of our officers and funding via this grant, the City of Lompoc has seen a marked reduction in gang-related crime. To date in 2008 we have had no gang-related homicides. We have seized several firearms and arrested numerous gang members during the sweeps. Some local gang members have taken notice of our increased efforts and have confidentially expressed to officers their regrets to belonging to gangs.

Discussion:

For this 2008-09 grant year, officers will periodically conduct targeted enforcement of gang members, serve outstanding arrest warrants, assist the appropriate agencies on parole and probation searches, and conduct community meetings to discuss neighborhood issues.

The grant will provide \$30,000.00 in overtime funding to support our continuing effort in suppressing gang-related crime in the City. One G-NET officer is tasked with coordinating community interests and organizing teams to conduct sweeps. The sweep teams will dedicate one day each month proactively addressing gang issues, serving warrants, visiting parolees and probationers, and contacting gang members that reside in our City.

Statistical tools to measure the success of the Anti-Gang Initiative Grant will include arrests, contacts, weapons seized, warrants served, and field interviews completed.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has been tasked with the distribution and monitoring of this Federal "Anti-Gang Initiative Program" grant. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services has assumed grant administration under the pre-existing format that is used for other state and Federal "pass-through" programs. This format requires that the governing body approve that application and authorize staff to submit grant award forms. **There is no required match with this grant.**

Conclusion:

The Lompoc Police Department is proactively addressing gang violence in our City. Police Department staff remains confident this grant will continue to help us to achieve the following goals:

- To create a safer community by reducing the amount of gang-related crime using various strategies and holding criminal violators accountable for their actions.
- Reduce the number of persons wanted for outstanding warrants.
- More closely monitoring state prison parolees and county probationers who return to our community.

TIMOTHY L. DABNEY
Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

GARY KEEFE
City Administrator