

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item

DATE OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING: October 18, 2005

TO: GARY KEEFE, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: WILLIAM F. BROWN JR., CHIEF OF POLICE
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SUBJECT: POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE OFFICER FUNDING

Recommendation: that the City Council:

Appropriate the unanticipated revenue generated by the enhanced School Resource Officer (SRO) agreement with the Lompoc Unified School District, for the shorter period of the duration of the agreement or the FY 05-07 budget cycle, to the Police Activities League Program.

Synopsis:

Since 1997, the Lompoc Police Department has successfully hosted the Lompoc Valley Police Activities League program. Through June 30, 2004, the Department staffed the position with a fulltime police officer with grant funds provided by the Santa Barbara County Probation Department. On July 1, 2004, the grant was significantly reduced and the available funds only supported a part-time position. On July 1, 2005, the funding for the PAL program was lost entirely due to an overall reduction in available grant funds. We have continued to operate on a limited, part-time basis through previously approved redevelopment funds.

Since 2001, the Lompoc Police Department and the City have had an inter-agency agreement with the Lompoc Unified School District to provide a school resources officer (SRO). The District has provided 50 percent of the actual costs for the SRO. Recently we added a second SRO to the schools, and the schools are again picking up 50 percent of the costs. We are requesting that the new revenue generated from this second position be allocated to the PAL officer line item account.

Background:

The Lompoc Police Department hosts the Lompoc Valley PAL and has been the lead agency since its inception. The program seeks to foster a bond of mutual trust and understanding between police officers and young people by enabling them to interact in a non-confrontational setting. Educational, cultural and recreational activities are offered to the youth with emphasis placed on reaching those "at risk". PAL's long-term mission is to divert the youth away from gangs and criminal activity by bringing them alternative activities under the care and supervision of trained police officers, recreation staff, and parent and community volunteers.

The PAL has activities such as Basketball, Boxing, Softball, Soccer, Lifeguard Training, Off Road ATV, Snow Trips, Computer Labs, the Climbing Wall and much more. Until recently PAL offered mentoring programs, truancy case management and job assistance/life skills to clients referred by the probation department. In 2004-05, PAL served over 100 probation referred youths and in excess of 1,000 youths through our community activities and sports programs. The targeted program participants are those attending Lompoc High School, Lompoc Valley Middle School and El Camino Middle School. These schools serve an ethnically and socio-economically diverse student population in grades 6 through 12, totaling 3,246 students. PAL offers an opportunity to interact with police officers and adults in a positive setting.

In 2003-04, PAL received \$77,500 from the Santa Barbara County Probation Department. These monies paid for the salary and benefits of a full-time PAL officer. In 2004-05, the PAL was awarded \$45,000 from the probation department, a reduction of over forty percent. The impact in program funding was a direct result of the state cuts to the counties. For the 2005-06, funding cycle the PAL grant was eliminated. Again, the shortfall was primarily caused by state budget cutbacks to the counties.

Fiscal Impact:

The City will realize at least \$37,860 in new revenue for the additional SRO for 2005-06. There will be no new direct costs to staff the position, as it will be allocated from our existing authorized positions. Previous PAL funding, a probation grant, expired on June 30, 2005. The reallocation of these monies will allow the Department to continue a successful program that has broad community support.

Conclusion:

The Department is committed to its partnership with PAL to improve the quality of life in our community. The Department recommends that the City support this unique opportunity to employ a part-time officer at a significantly reduced cost. This will allow us to continue to provide enhanced community policing services.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM F. BROWN, JR.
Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO CITY COUNCIL:

GARY P. KEEFE
City Administrator