



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR LICCARDO
SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT

FROM: Councilmember Tam Nguyen
DATE: May 25, 2016

Approved

Date

5.25.16

RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

Proposal

Program/Project Title: Downtown Streets Team
Amount of City Funding Required: \$100,000

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General

This change is:

One-time Ongoing

Proposal Description, including anticipated outcomes (describe how change would affect services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc.):

Downtown Streets Team proposes to expand its award-winning model in District 7, focusing on blight removal within the hot spots identified by the community, San Jose City's Environmental Service Department, District 7 and encampment information from the homeless outreach database (all identified in the map below). Providing service to this residential area is essential to the DST model and will change the perception of homelessness in the community while cleaning up. In just one year since similar cleanup projects have launched in Mayfair, Santee and Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace, neighborhood groups and community members have displayed appreciation for the team publicly and directly to team members. This type of active engagement within the community strengthens the ties between residents, business owners and generally inspires pride within the community.

There will be a five participant team that would remove blight along the surrounding project area of Lone Bluff Way, Balfour Dr., Senter Rd., Umbarger Rd., and Lewis Rd. to Monterey St. The team would work four hours a day, 5 days a week (100 participant-hours a week) removing debris, performing outreach to the homeless populations in the area, reporting code violations, covering/preventing graffiti and providing general blight removal services. In addition, team members will host volunteers from the community, initiate collaboration with Neighborhood Action Committees and Community Based Organizations to ensure long-term stewardship from business owners and the neighborhood.

This is expected to be one time funding to be evaluated after one year for future continuation of services.

The mission of Downtown Streets Team (DST) is to eradicate homelessness by empowering homeless individuals to be part of the solution to homelessness, rather than just the problem. DST members participate in a volunteer Work

Experience program that provides great value to partnered non-profits, local governments, and our community. In exchange, team members earn food/basic needs vouchers, housing assistance, housing/shelter placement, case management, transportation assistance, Job Search Skills classes, employment placement, and more; all while rebuilding their dignity, re-engaging with the greater community and becoming part of a team that encourages and supports them as they work toward rebuilding their lives.

In 2009, DST's proactive model for eradicating homelessness was recognized as one of the Top 50 Innovations in Government by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The model – which has been scaled to successfully execute a wide range of beautification projects – was originally developed by business owners in Palo Alto, CA who identified two major problems in the downtown area: litter and panhandling. These concerned members of the community developed the idea to get the homeless men and women of Palo Alto to clean the Downtown area in exchange for basic needs and services. It was from this associative thinking that the DST was born, and its early success contributed to the organization's explosive growth over the past ten years. The organization has launched additional teams in Sunnyvale, San Rafael, San Francisco, Gilroy and even Daytona Beach FL.

In mid-2011 DST launched its San Jose team to address homelessness in the Capitol of Silicon Valley. Since then the team has grown to become the largest of any chapter and provides a path out of homelessness for over 300 people every year.

Funding Source

X Essential Services Reserve (\$2.5 million)

Other (Program/Project/Fund):

Department or Organization: Downtown Streets Team

Department or Organization Contact (list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation):

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