

REPORT FROM

## OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Date: *May 20, 2005*

CAO File No. 0220-03614-0006

Council File No. 99-1571-S3

Council District: 6

To: The Public Safety Committee

From: William T Fujioka, City Administrative Officer



Reference: Request from the Public Safety Committee dated December 14, 2004

Subject: **FUNDING FOR THE VAN NUYS COMMUNITY COURT PROJECT**

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### SUMMARY

On December 7, 2004, the Council adopted a motion (Cardenas-Padilla) to request the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Administrative Officer and the Mayor's Criminal Justice Planning Office (MCJPO) to review potential funding sources in the amount of \$170,000 for a one-year extension of services at the Van Nuys Community Court (Van Nuys), while the Court identifies a permanent funding source. The Council also instructed that the review should include possible identification of Los Angeles County funding sources for this collaborative project.

Van Nuys is one of two community courts in Los Angeles established as part of the Community Court Pilot Project in October 2001. The Downtown Community Court is the other. The pilot was funded by a \$997,800 grant from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Community Courts (courts) deliberate over low-level crime "quality of life" offenses, such as prostitution, disorderly conduct, vandalism, shoplifting and graffiti. The courts sentence offenders to community service, while at the same time offering assistance to address problems that may cause criminal behavior. Residents, businesses and social service agencies collaborate with the courts by supervising community service projects and by providing on-site social services that include drug treatment, health care and job training.

The Volunteer Center of Los Angeles (VCLA), a non-profit organization, was selected as a result of a Request for Proposal to provide services in Van Nuys. To date, the Van Nuys project has received a total of \$287,300. Of this amount, \$257,300 is from the BJA grant which funded the City's original agreement with the VCLA from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 (\$172,000) and an amendment extending the agreement to September 30, 2004 (\$85,300) (C.F. 99-1571-S1 and 99-1751-S2). The remaining \$30,000 was provided by the Council District 11 Community Services budget (C.F. 02-2102). The VCLA continued the program without additional funds from October 1, 2004 to December 30, 2004.

The Van Nuys Advisory Board has developed a plan to sustain the program. As the lead agency, the VCLA is seeking funding from various sources. These sources include private funds from the Mid-Valley Chamber of Commerce, Auto Row car dealership and more than 30 businesses along Van Nuys Boulevard and public funds from the City's Bureau of Street Lighting's projects advertised for bids and the Community Development Block Grant. Decisions from these sources are pending.

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The annual cost of the Van Nuys program is \$170,000. To date, \$95,333 has been secured from the following sources:

- \$20,000 - Council District (CD) 11. On February 11, 2005, the Council approved a motion (Miscikowski-Cardenas) C.F. 04-2540-S1 to provide funding to the community court from discretionary funds;
- \$50,000 - 2005-06 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Budget; and,
- \$23,333 - Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. This amount is subject to a three to one equivalent City match and a commitment to retain services for a minimum of 12 months. The three to one City match requirement has been met with the total of \$70,000 provided above from CD 11 and CDBG. The City expects to meet the requirement to retain services for 12 months.

Funding will be provided directly to Van Nuys from the sources listed above. The \$95,333 assembled to date represents approximately six months funding (April 2005 through September 2005). We anticipate that the remaining \$74,667 required to fund the project for 12 months will be assembled from various private and/or public sources. The MCJPO will continue to work with VCLA to seek the necessary funding.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Administrative Officer and the Mayor's Criminal Justice Planning Office to report back in ninety days on the progress of the remaining amount required to fund the project through March 31, 2006.

## **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

There is no General Fund impact. Funding is provided by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (\$23,333), Council District 11 (\$20,000) and the 2005-06 Community Development Block Grant Budget (\$50,000) to continue the Van Nuys Community Court Project for six months.