

June 16, 2009

Board of Commissioners
Housing Authority of the County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 315
San Rafael, CA 94903



4020 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903-4173

SUBJECT: Program Launch: The Phoenix Project of Marin

Executive Director
Dan Nackerman

RECOMMENDATION: Accept Report

SUMMARY: As you know, the Marin Housing Authority is the proud owner and operator of an entire rental community in Marin City known as Golden Gate Village. Today we are going to describe a new, innovative effort to change the trajectory of some young community members who may be headed towards involvement in serious crime – or who may already be involved in crime. This small program embraces the principles that these are elementally good “kids” with great needs and that the way to find these needs and to fill these needs is through direct, face-to-face intervention. The new program is ‘THE PHOENIX PROJECT OF MARIN – A COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CENTER’.

BACKGROUND: The citizens living in Marin City face many stereotypes, including one that many are criminals. In fact, very little crime occurs in Marin City compared to the reputation – perhaps it’s the comparison to neighboring cities such as Sausalito, where different *types* of crime often occur, that brings this reputation.

However, frightening crimes are occurring on a more regular basis in Marin City, including the following:

- 5/09: Shots Fired – and Related Assault on a Young Man
- 4/09: Major Drug Dealer Suspect Arrested
- 4/09: Resident Shot in Back
- 2/09: Occupied Sheriff Vehicle Shot
- 1/09: Resident Stabbed to Death
- 9/08: Visitor Beaten and Robbed
- 2008/09: Regular Armed and Unarmed Robberies in Area

Note also some overall Marin City crime statistics:

- 337 “crimes” in Marin City in 2008 compared to 209 crimes in 2007.
- Crimes that occurred significantly more often in 2008 than 2007: Homicide; Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Thefts, Shoplifting, Vandalism, Weapons Violations.
- 30 Juvenile arrests so far in 2009.

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The question is what to do: More patrols? Security cameras? Recreation programs? Church involvement? Evictions? National programs such as Boys & Girls Club?

While the answer may include all of the above, the Phoenix Project intends to respond quickly, directly and on the small scale required to help some of the 20-40 young men who may be involved - or soon to be involved -- by engaging as follows:

- 1) Gather effective partners in response that include at least the following:
 - a. Housing Authority – Lead Agency
 - b. Performing Stars of Marin – Lead Non-Profit
 - c. 'Project Impact' from the Prison System - Counseling
 - d. Senior Sunshine Club – Family Mentoring & Support
 - e. Marin County Public Defender's Office - Counseling
 - f. Marin County Probation Department – Counseling
 - g. California Mentoring Foundation – Mentoring
 - h. Local leaders
 - i. Other partners such as the Marin County Sheriff's Department, the North Bay Conservation Corp, the District Attorney and others....
- 2) Create a 'Community Connection Center' facility in the "200 block" of Golden Gate Village public housing development.
- 3) Launch initiatives such as case management counseling, classroom style workshops on life improvement, crisis response, GED attainment, family involvement, job skills training, employment connections, field trips, guest speakers, criminal system education, etc.
- 4) Track and report at an unprecedented level of excellence.

These young men are good people who need help to change the trajectory of their existing life.

The project is anticipated to start July 1 and cost \$162,980 (without in-kind).

A comprehensive presentation will be made at the meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: Substantial In-kind costs

Sincerely,



Daniel Nackerman

Executive Director