

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HALF MOON BAY

AGENDA REPORT

For meeting of: **May 4, 2021**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Bob Nisbet, City Manager
Matthew Chidester, Deputy City Manager

TITLE: **YANIRA SERRANO PRESENTE! IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize approval of the Yanira Serrano Presente! Implementation Plan including:

- 1) A police resource/complaint line;
- 2) New Sheriff deputy orientation meetings with community members;
- 3) A commitment of \$75,000 in FY 2021-22 to help fund additional mental health services in Half Moon Bay.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Should the Council approve this Plan, \$75,000 for mental health services will be included in the Recommended FY 2021-22 Budget.

STRATEGIC ELEMENT:

This action supports the *Healthy Communities and Public Safety* element of the Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND:

On June 16, 2020, the Half Moon Bay Latino Council officially presented the Yanira Serrano Presente! Program to the City Council (attached). The program was established in memory of Yanira Serrano. Her death resulted from an encounter with law enforcement, which was investigated by the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Also on June 16, 2020, the Council directed staff to establish a councilmember Public Safety Subcommittee, and to engage a series of community meetings with the goal of strengthening the bond between public safety and the community. The Subcommittee has met on three occasions on September 8, September 23, and December 10, 2020. A fourth meeting is being planned for some time in May.

Staff has led a series of community focus groups since the June meeting. The purpose of these meetings was to focus on very specific groups of the community and ask them about their experiences with law enforcement. Focus group meetings have been held with Latino leaders, youth, faith leaders, homeless individuals, homeless service providers, and mental health experts and advocates. A second meeting on mental health is scheduled for May 7, 2021.

DISCUSSION:

There are four essential components of the Yanira Serrano Presente! Program:

Accountability

The Program requests a City sponsored “resource line” to allow the public to report both compliments and complaints regarding their interactions with local law enforcement.

Staff agrees with this recommendation and is proposing a specific phone line in the City Manager’s Office. The phone line would go to a voice mailbox with a greeting both in English and Spanish and the greeting would very clearly state the purpose of the resource line. Our commitment would be to return all calls within 72 hours for follow-up. We propose the following additional features to ensure the success of this resource line:

- Anonymous calls would be accepted. However, more thorough follow-up can occur if the person leaves their contact information. If the person does leave their contact information but wants to remain anonymous from the Sheriff’s Department as the follow-up occurs, this confidentiality would be maintained to the greatest extent allowed by law.
- The number would be advertised on the City Manager and Law Enforcement pages of the City website, City social media, and provided to trusted community partners.
- A form for providing a compliment or complaint electronically would also be provided.
- A list of frequently asked questions, additional resources and other important “hotlines” would also be provided on the web page.
- All complaints and compliments, whether anonymous or not, would be retained by the City in a database in order to analyze the types of calls and possible trends for future action/adjustments.
- Additionally, The Sheriff’s Office has a complaint/compliment phone line and e-mail via their website www.smcsheriff.com. Policy 1011 PERSONNEL COMPLAINTS from the Sheriff’s Policy Manual covers their phone line. The Sheriff’s Office takes all complaints seriously and will take a complaint in-person, by phone, email and through a 3rd party. The City’s website will also link people to the Complaint/Commendation page on the Sheriff webpage.

Community Outreach

The Program requests a community orientation for all new deputies assigned to the City.

Staff is proposing an initial series of four virtual meetings during late May and June. There are eight deputies assigned to the City. Two deputies would participate in each meeting. The meetings would be scheduled for 45 minutes to an hour. The simple purpose of these initial meetings would be for community members to meet our deputies, and deputies to meet community members. Going forward, additional meetings would be scheduled when new deputies are assigned to the City. These meetings will be scheduled in person when allowed and may also occur at City Council meetings.

Mental Health

The Sheriff's Office created a specialized unit after Yanira's Serrano's death, the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT), which consists of Sheriff detectives and two mental health clinicians from San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. The Sheriff's Office also has implemented Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and Enhanced ECIT for their staff, along with a Non-Criminal Dis-engagement policy.

The Program requests that funds be raised and allocated to providing additional mental health services; and specifically to cultural competency training. The program envisions that these funds may come from multiple sources.

Staff is recommending that the Council allocate \$75,000 as "seed" money to this component of the Program. If the Council approves this recommendation, the funds would be included in the FY 2021-22 Operational Budget and a plan would be designed to administer these funds in a manner that best suits the objective. Since the Program was submitted to the City, there has been a movement both nationally, and in the Bay Area, to pilot programs in which a mental health clinician accompanies a deputy on specific 911 calls where mental health may be a factor. This seed money could be used to promote such a pilot program in Half Moon Bay.

De-escalation/Use of Force

The Program requests that the Sheriff adopt the "Eight Can't Wait" policies. These use of force policies have been established by law enforcements advocates and included in policy conversations at the national level. On June 16, 2020, the County Sheriff made a presentation to the Council on San Mateo's current use, and implementation of Eight Can't Wait. The presentation from that meeting can be found here: <https://www.half-moon-bay.ca.us/704/Sheriffs-Policies-Training-and-Procedure>. This presentation shows that the Sheriff complies 100% with six of the policies; and complies with the other two when feasible (warning before using force), or when there is no other reasonable means to divert a threat to life of the officer or others (shooting at a moving vehicle).

Staff recently met with members of the Latino Council to share and refine the City's recommendations. Future meetings will be held to evaluate implementation efforts and discuss additional opportunities.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Resolution
- 2) Yanira Serrano Presente! Program