

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 14, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR GRANT SUBMISSION TO THE TARGET COMMUNITY GIVING PROGRAM TO PROVIDE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMMING IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SITES

**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of the Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB) application for grant funds from the Target Community Giving Program to implement *Get Real About Violence*, a science-based violence prevention program, in Alexandria elementary schools and community sites by the CSB Prevention Team as part of the City's response to concerns about gang activity.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the grant application to the Target Community Giving Program in the amount of \$4,080 to purchase eight *Get Real About Violence* kits that will be used to implement a proven violence prevention program reaching approximately 400 children aged 5-11 at elementary schools and community sites over the course of one year; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The Target Community Giving Program allocates one-time grant dollars through local stores to organizations in their community. Grants must focus on one of three areas, including family violence prevention. The Request for Proposal (RFP) notes that "violence prevention benefits the entire community by building strong families, creating healthy environments for kids and helping parents and kids make good choices." *Get Real About Violence* helps kids make good choices and helps to keep them safe. Grants usually average between \$1,000 and \$3,000. Applications became available March 1, 2005, and are reviewed as they are received.

In response to concerns regarding gang activity, CSB Prevention Services has been receiving regular requests from school and community partners to provide proven violence prevention programming for our youngest residents. *Get Real About Violence* meets this need. Five prevention staff will implement the program beginning in October 2005 at William Ramsay,

Samuel Tucker and Cora Kelly Magnet Elementary Schools, Charles Houston Recreation Center, Essex House Apartments and Community Lodgings Arlandria Learning Center. The K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade kit costs \$595. The 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade kit costs \$425. The grant request is for the purchase of a total of 8 kits (4 of each level).

**DISCUSSION:** This grant, if awarded, will allow the purchase of 8 *Get Real About Violence* curriculum kits. These kits would allow the implementation of a proven violence prevention program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The grant proposal is for \$4,080. No City match is required.

**STAFF:**

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Sandy Murphy, Budget Analyst, OMB