


City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 6, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION BY THE COURT SERVICE UNIT FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE U.S. OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of an application by the Court Service Unit for grant funds from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the submission of a grant application (due June 20, 2008), not to exceed \$500,000; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

**BACKGROUND:** On June 3, 2008, the Court Service Unit (CSU) was notified that the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention began soliciting proposals for programs that will increase local communities' capacity to develop and implement mentoring programs, and provide mentoring services. The Office is particularly interested in proposals that are aimed at populations of at-risk youth who are underserved due to location, shortage of mentors, special physical or mental challenges, or other factors. It is anticipated that awards will range from \$250,000-\$500,000 for a period of up to three years.

Through staff support and leadership to the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership, a consortium of 11 local mentoring programs, the Alexandria CSU currently administers two mentoring programs; SOHO (a Space Of Her Own), and iMovie Mentors. Two CSU staff members have assumed these duties as part of their regular job responsibilities. Neither program serves youth that live in the West End of Alexandria, an area that has been identified as needing mentoring programs. There is a need for additional staff to address the growing needs for mentoring programs and community partnerships.

**DISCUSSION:** The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership was initiated by the CSU in 2007 to maximize mentor recruitment, screening, and training; and to ensure quality mentoring programs for City youth. At present there are 240 active mentors. As a result of the popularity and success of the programs, the CSU estimates that 260 additional mentors are needed city-wide, with a focus on the west end.

The CSU has already implemented two successful mentoring programs: a Space of Her Own (SOHO), for preteen, at-risk girls, and iMovie Mentors (iM2), for at-risk, sixth grade boys from neighborhoods in Old Town and Del Ray. Current statistics indicate that 95% of participants who have completed these programs have stayed out of the juvenile justice system. The west end is presently the most underserved population in Alexandria.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The program budget will be, if awarded, between \$250,000 and \$500,000, funding will be used for up to two part-time, temporary staff (depending on the size of the grant), and related costs. These positions will be terminated when grant funding is no longer available. The program will be sustained beyond the term of the grant by community partners who are brought into the program over the three year term of the grant.

There are no matching funds required.

**STAFF:**

Lillian Brooks, Director, Court Service Unit

Linda Odell, CSU Director of Alternative Programs

Mike Mackey, CSU Gang Prevention and Intervention Coordinator

Karen Winey, Grants Coordinator