



Budget Engagement Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: MARCH 10, 2022**

FROM: OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: MEASURE Z - EXPANSION PROPOSAL OF PUBLIC SAFETY ENGAGEMENT
TEAM PROGRAM - DISCUSSION**

ISSUE:

Receive and discuss a proposal on the possible expansion of the Public Safety Engagement Team Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Engagement Commission receive and discuss a proposal on the possible expansion of the Public Safety Engagement Team Program.

BACKGROUND:

On March 27, 2019, the Budget Engagement Commission (BEC) received a report on the proposed Public Safety Engagement Team (PSET) program and request to recommend to the City Council a Measure Z allocation of \$3.45 million to the program. Following discussion, the BEC recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve an allocation of Measure Z funding for the expansion of mental health services by adding 28 beds in partnership with a non-profit provider (Helping Hands) to the Hulen Place Campus (Option D); and
2. Approve an allocation of Measure Z funding of up to \$7.5 million for a maximum of 36 months to fund two Public Safety and Engagement Teams (including personnel, equipment, and training) and contract out Homeless encampment cleanup services (Option C).

On April 2, 2019, the City Council approved the Public Safety Engagement Team (PSET) program to address concerns related to the ongoing challenge of people experiencing homelessness and its impact on the quality of life in the City. As part of the program, the PSET was authorized to help ensure that the quality of life is maintained, City facilities are being used in a safe and enjoyable manner, issues in the parks and public areas are addressed quickly and efficiently, and community members are using parks and facilities in accordance with applicable city codes and ordinances.

The teams receive specialized training related to homeless engagement, mental and public health, and consists of representatives from the following departments:

- Riverside Police Department (RPD)
- Code Enforcement Division – Community and Economic Development Department (Code)
- Office of Homeless Solutions – City Manager’s Office
- Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department (PRCSD)

Through the approval of this Program, a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$3,451,126 was authorized by City Council from Measure Z to fund personnel and equipment for the two Public Safety Engagement Teams for fiscal year 2019/20. Subsequent years were budgeted at \$2,800,000 per year in the Measure Z Spending Plan through the annual budget process. Not all PSET positions were funded through Measure Z.

On January 14, 2021, the BEC reviewed the Measure Z Spending plan, including a discussion on the PSET program. The BEC recommended that the funding for PSET remain intact.

On February 16, 2022, the Safety, Wellness, and Youth Committee (Committee) received a presentation on the possible expansion of PSET. Through discussion, the Committee recommended the item be presented to the Budget Engagement Commission for further discussion of the Measure Z funding request including the request for resources to support encampment clean-up efforts located near or surrounding CAL Trans or County jurisdictions.

DISCUSSION:

The proposal for discussion today is the increase of PSET staffing levels and resources to establish two additional teams to provide homeless encampment clean-up, outreach services, and homeless engagement resources to all wards seven days a week including early morning and late evening engagements. Since inception, PSET has addressed the issues compromising the quality of life for Riverside residents.

The table below identifies 2021 performance levels:

PSET 2021	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS
Locations	527	476	521	511	382	513	483	466	429	417	354	333	5412
Contacts	524	472	522	563	427	527	565	483	662	449	306	599	6099
Services Accepted	49	23	46	54	67	60	71	43	103	59	38	137	750
Code Notices Issued	147	122	153	147	90	119	117	138	117	121	58	49	1378
Citations	32	33	44	48	26	29	22	24	25	23	13	18	337
Arrests	39	50	47	43	46	62	54	55	57	54	24	23	554
Vehicles Towed	0	0	0	5	8	10	3	7	4	4	3	5	49
Tons Removed	41.64	61.1	46.14	43.51	29.91	57.26	54	54	53.69	56.81	23.13	27.38	548.57

Despite these efforts, the current staffing and funding levels restrict the ability to engage with the homeless population and provide services at the proposed level.

Expansion of the PSET would include the addition of:

- 5 Code Enforcement Officers
- 6 Outreach Workers
- 4 Police Officers

The additional staffing is estimated to be an ongoing cost of \$1,382,705, with annual adjustments as required per applicable Memorandums of Understanding. Additional resources needed to perform the proposed services include, but are not limited to, cell phones, laptops, vehicles, and waste disposal services, with a one-time cost of approximately \$127,200 and ongoing costs of approximately \$528,500. The total for the addition two teams is estimated to be just over \$2.0 million for the first year and \$1.9 million for each additional year. The expansion of PSET is proposed to be Measure Z funded.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The work of the Public Safety Engagement Team contributes to Strategic Priority No. 2 *Community Well-Being* and supports Goal No. 2.4 - Support programs and innovations that enhance community safety, encourage neighborhood engagement, and build public trust and Goal No. 2.5 - Foster relationships between community members, partner organizations, and public safety professionals to define, prioritize, and address community safety and social service needs.

The proposed expansion of the PSET program aligns with EACH of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The Public Safety Engagement Team’s focus is directly responsible for addressing issues/concerns from the community. The goals and accomplishments of the PSET team serve the public interest, benefit the City’s diverse populations, and result in the greater public good.
2. **Equity** – The Public Safety Engagement Team is supportive of the City’s attributes of diversity and is committed to advancing equitable distribution of services.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The Public Safety Engagement Team is a prudent steward of public funds and ensures responsible management of the City’s financial resources while providing quality public services to all. The Team is primarily funded through Measure Z Funding.
4. **Innovation** – The Public Safety Engagement Team is inventive and timely in meeting the community’s changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The Public Safety Engagement Team is committed to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City’s capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during good and difficult times. This is partly accomplished through the use of alternative funding other than the General Fund.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendation included in this report. A formal request for the allocation of Measure Z funding toward program expansion will be incorporated into the budget development process for BEC consideration alongside other critical unfunded needs.

The total future fiscal impact of the addition of two teams is estimated to be just over \$2.0 million for the first year and \$1.9 million for each additional year. The expansion of PSET is proposed to be funded through Measure Z. With the currently approved spending items, Measure Z is expected to end fiscal year 2021/22 with approximately \$45 million in unallocated reserves.

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Attachment: Presentation