

27TH BOARD OF
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CITY OF STAMFORD

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**RESOLUTION NO 3166
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THROUGH THE EDWARD BYRNE
MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT**

WHEREAS, funding has been made available to assist the City of Stamford in the provision of law enforcement programs through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stamford wishes to take advantage of those funds to facilitate a program to reduce truancy, deter youth from gang related activity, and enhance the capability of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to prosecute offenders; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stamford anticipates filing an application with the U.S. Department of Justice to initiate such a program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dannel P. Malloy, Mayor of the City of Stamford, is hereby authorized to file an application with the U.S. Department of Justice for funding to support the **Truancy, Anti-Gang & Internet Crimes Initiative** in the amount of \$67,018; and

THAT he is authorized to enter into agreement and to execute documents of behalf of the City of Stamford as well as provide the necessary assurances for acceptance of such funding as is required by the U. S. Department of Justice; and

THAT he is authorized to modify such application and budget in accordance with federal requirements to address the programmatic needs of the Jail Diversion Program.

I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by the Fiscal Committee of the Board of Representatives at a meeting held on May 29, 2007, and the application was made available to the members of the Board of Representatives not less than thirty days prior to July 2, 2007, and has not been altered, amended or rescinded and is now in full force and effect.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said City of Stamford, this _____ day of _____, 2007.

Donna M. Loglisci, City and Town Clerk

cc: Mayor Dannel P. Malloy
Ben Barnes, Director of Operations
Sandra Dennies, Director of Administration
Thomas M. Cassone, Director of Legal Affairs
William Callion, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare
Donna Loglisci, City and Town Clerk
Karen Cammarota, Acting Grants Director

Justice Assistance Grant 2007

Title: Truancy, Anti-Gang & Internet Crimes Initiative

Program Narrative: (Attachment 1)

Over the last several years, the City of Stamford, Connecticut has experienced a significant increase in youth related violence. This violence has manifested itself in many different forms with youths being both perpetrators and victims. The City of Stamford has already implemented several innovative prevention programs designed to address each of these occurrences. We plan to enhance these programs by integrating and supplementing new initiatives with JAG 07 funding in a two-pronged approach. First, we plan on enhancing and coordinating two existing prevention programs both designed to deter youths from anti-social and criminal behavior. One will focus on school truancy prevention, and the second will focus on anti-gang prevention and education measures. Second, we plan on enhancing our Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in order to improve our efforts at preventing children from falling prey to Internet predators. These enhancements will compliment and strengthen our comprehensive youth-based strategy designed to reduce all forms of youth-related violence.

Much of the recent violent and criminal activity committed by youths has stemmed from a rivalry between loosely organized local gangs who allege national gang affiliation. This activity culminated in a gang related homicide followed by a "shoot-out" between dozens of gang members on a busy city street. In fact, there were over a dozen retaliatory shootings in all. Crime statistics illustrate this wave of youth led violent crime. There has been a double-digit increase in violent crime each of the last two years. The Stamford Police Department implemented several proactive crime prevention programs that curbed this overt wave of youth led violence. In analyzing the origins of this violence, however, it became clear that a coordinated comprehensive youth-based initiative was necessary to address the fundamental core issues that fueled this violence.

In response to this violence, the Police Department made preventive youth-based programs a top priority. The City of Stamford has incorporated funding in its budget, combined with several state and federal grant funding sources, to implement several initiatives. In fact, Stamford has used previous JAG funding to establish a Jail Diversion Program, a Juvenile Review Board and plans to institute a pilot youth court at an alternative high school for at risk youths next school year. The City of Stamford is committed to maintaining these and other successful youth-based programs, and looks forward to extending these efforts to reducing truancy and anti-gang prevention with JAG 07 funding.

Although not always viewed as a major social problem, persistent truancy often is the first step towards serious anti-social or criminal activity. As a result, the

Stamford Police Department's initiative is designed to address this issue before it leads to more serious consequences. Furthermore, the current apparatus in place designed to curb truancy in Stamford is not working. JAG 07 funding will be used to set up a paradigm designed to monitor problem truants. The program will focus on the incoming freshmen class entering high school in order to instill in them the importance of regular school attendance combined with structured meaningful after school activity. A police officer has been dedicated to serve as a case manager for this program. He, in conjunction with (5) School Resource Officers will be responsible for identifying students who have a high rate of truancy, and attempt to solve any underlying issues that may be contributing to the truancy. Once a student is deemed to have a truancy problem, the case manager will conduct an interview with him or her. The case manager or the School Resource Officer will also conduct a home visit to assess how the home situation impacts the student's behavior. This assessment will focus on the role of the parent(s), and the officers will provide whatever assistance they may need to help their child.

After these interviews, the case management team will determine the most appropriate action to remedy the problem. This can take several forms including mentoring, referral to an after-school program, an appropriate social service agency, or even professional counseling. During all these activities, the case manager will continue to monitor the student's school attendance. One of the major objectives of this program is for a measurable improvement in school attendance to occur. If the truancy problem persists, however, the student will be referred to the non-judicial program with Juvenile Probation. This is the program that is currently in place, and if a student violates his or her probation, he or she moves into the criminal justice system.

In much the same vein, those students that have demonstrated a propensity towards gang activity, but have not actually committed any criminal offense, will also be interviewed and monitored by the case manager and the School Resource Officers. Home visits will also be conducted to ascertain the impact the home environment has on the student's behavior. These students will be mentored in gang educational training classes conducted by the Stamford Police Department's certified G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education And Training) Officer. This program is a skills-based curriculum designed to foster an attitudinal and behavioral change concerning gangs. The G.R.E.A.T. program survey, or a comparable survey, will be administered to students prior to the beginning of their mentoring program. The same survey will be administered to the students upon their completion of the program. A major objective of this aspect of the program is for the students to demonstrate a measurable increase in their negative attitudes towards gangs. Obviously, if this occurs the student is far less likely to partake in gang-related activities.

In addition, these students will also be referred to the Stamford Police Department's specialty Gang Unit. This unit was formed in response to the

previously mentioned gang-related violence that was occurring in the city. At that time, this unit compiled a gang-related database that identified organized gangs and their members in Stamford. Initially eight gangs were identified with a combined membership of 171 youths. Interacting with students who demonstrate a strong potential to join gangs serves two important purposes. First, it will serve as an intelligence-gathering source by enabling the Gang Unit to update its database and gain insights into the recruitment efforts being undertaken by gangs. Second, these officers will expose students to the realities concerning gang life that is often quite different from the glamorized version many believe it to be. We believe that a dose of this harsh reality, reinforced by the G.R.E.A.T. curriculum, will convince these students not to engage in gang-related activities. If the problem still persists, however, the student will be referred to the non-judicial program with Juvenile Probation, which could ultimately lead to the criminal justice system.

The second aspect of this program will focus on strengthening our efforts to prevent children from being victimized by adults. We plan on accomplishing this by enhancing our Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Specifically, this will entail the purchase of a Forensic Recovery of Evidence Device (F.R.E.D.). Once our Task Force has identified an Internet child predator and has gone through the legal channels of seizing a suspect's computer, the hard drive is removed and connected to the F.R.E.D. A forensically sound image is taken of the suspect's hard drive. Then, using the accompanying software, this hard drive can be analyzed. A vital factor is that through this avenue, most files that have been deleted can be recovered. Some of the many items that can be recovered include, photos, chats, videos, e-mails, financial records, and dates and times. All of this evidence will strengthen the criminal case against the suspect, increasing the possibility that he or she will be incarcerated for their crimes.

Also, we plan on expanding the resources of our Task Force in two important ways. First, we are in the process of becoming a member of the Connecticut Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. This partnership will put all the resources of the state Task Force at our disposal. Second, we are organizing a regional Task Force in conjunction with local court prosecutors. We plan on incorporating all cities and towns within our court jurisdiction in this effort. We plan on making the use of F.R.E.D. available to all of these municipalities to assist them with their child protection efforts. This collaboration will provide us, as well as all our regional partners, with the best opportunity to collect and solidify evidence against identified child predators in the area. We believe utilizing JAG 07 funding to purchase a Forensic Recovery of Evidence Device is an excellent investment that will enhance our entire Youth Services prevention and safety endeavors by maximizing the effectiveness of our Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

We believe the enhancements proposed with JAG 07 funding will address fundamental issues, specifically truancy and gang proclivity, which, left unabated

often lead to criminal behavior. By reinforcing regular school attendance combined with anti-gang efforts, we will be preventing future problems before they arise, as well as encouraging youths to reach their maximum potential. Also, we believe utilizing JAG 07 funding to enhance our Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force by purchasing a Forensic Recovery of Evidence Device will ultimately be a vital component in protecting children from Internet predators. All of these efforts are compatible with our comprehensive Youth-based initiatives.

Proposed Budget:

Police overtime for truancy and gang prevention home visits and interviews:
\$25,000

Police overtime for gang database development:
\$20,000

F.R.E.D. hardware, software and training
\$15,000

Computer and program supplies \$
7,018