



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

### County Board Agenda Item Meeting of May 22, 2010

**DATE:** May 3, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Authorization and appropriation of Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force (NVRGTS) funds to purchase equipment and contracted services.

#### **C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Authorize the County Manager to accept \$9,368 in non-competitive grant funds from the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force (NVRGTF).
2. Appropriate \$9,368 grant funds in FY 2010 from NVRGTF (101.374964) to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDR) (101.20601) for costs associated with the Arlington Gang Task Force.

**ISSUES:** NVRGTF has unallocated grant funds that it is making available to localities to support gang intervention and prevention efforts. No issues have been identified.

**SUMMARY:** The Steering Board of NVRGTF has identified unused grant funds to be distributed to its five participating jurisdictions in addition to the Gang Task Force Grant of \$61,646. This money must be spent by August 31, 2010. The Arlington Gang Task Force will use the additional funds to purchase equipment that will support community awareness efforts and local soccer tournaments for high risk youth. Contracted services will assist young adult offenders, age 18 to 24, who re-enter the community after incarceration.

**BACKGROUND:** Since 2005, Arlington has been a member of the NVRGTF, which uses federal grant money to coordinate prevention, intervention and suppression efforts at the local and regional levels. The NVRGTF has based much of its work on the Comprehensive Gang Model developed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Office. It provides a research-based structure that local communities can use to confront and deal with the problem of gangs. There are five areas of focus: community mobilization, opportunities provision, social intervention, suppression, and organizational change and development.

In Arlington, the Gang Task Force is comprised of representatives from the Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Schools, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources and the Court Services. The Gang Task Force Grant funds a Coordinator position. Activities include suppression of gang activity, mentoring, counseling for youths and their family members, and

County Manager: BMD/MJJ

County Attorney: AT/SAM

Staff: Patricia Romano, Director, Court Services Unit, JDR. x7331

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local and regional soccer tournaments for at-risk and gang involved youth. Arlington's Gang Task Force has provided the arena for all stakeholders to collaborate to solve the gang problem by combining resources and breaking down barriers.

**DISCUSSION:** The Arlington Gang Task Force will use \$4,568 to purchase equipment including: a computer for the gang task force coordinator, a projector and screen, a three-panel exhibitor display for community presentations, a portable public address system, and soccer balls to be used at tournaments. The remaining \$4,800 will be used to fund a part-time contractor who will assist young adult offenders, age 18 to 24, as they re-enter the community after incarceration.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Under this award the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force will provide JDR with \$9,368 grant funds, with no local match required, to be expended by August 31, 2010.