



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

Public Hearing
May 29, 2007

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Funding for School Attendance Centers

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a **Resolution** 1) providing partial financial support for the operation of up to three attendance centers in partnership with school districts and the County of Sacramento; and 2) amending the proposed FY 2007/08 Budget by reallocating \$245,800 from the Community-Schools Partnership CIP (LS16) to fund the centers.

Contact: Daniel Hahn, Captain, 808-0310

Presenters: Daniel Hahn, Captain

Cassandra Jennings, Assistant City Manager

Department: Police

Division: Special Investigations

Organization No: 2142

Description/Analysis

Issue: On October 10, 2006, the Sacramento Police Department and City of Sacramento, in partnership with the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD), the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA), and several Community Based Organizations (CBO), opened the Luther Burbank Attendance Center as a pilot project. The goal of the project was to ascertain the root causes of truancy for individual students and address those causes through social services and community based solutions. By addressing the root causes of truancy, more students are expected to attend school and, thereby, receive an education.

Funding is necessary to continue the existing Center and to expand the number of attendance centers to other local area schools. Staff is requesting a portion of the necessary funding to be funded from City. The remaining funding will be paid for by other participating agencies.

Policy Considerations: Youth are Sacramento's most important asset. Strategies to keep our youth safe, to make them productive citizens, and for full

engagement in their education are vital to the future of our community. Reducing truancy and promoting continuing education are the foundations for efforts targeted at youth crime prevention.

Environmental Considerations: This activity is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not constitute a "project" as defined in section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines, and is otherwise exempt pursuant to Sections 15321(b) (law enforcement activities) and 15061(b)(3) (no significant effect on the environment) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: The Attendance Center at Luther Burbank High School has proven to be successful on multiple levels and the continuance of the current Center and expansion of this concept citywide is imperative for the development of Sacramento's youth.

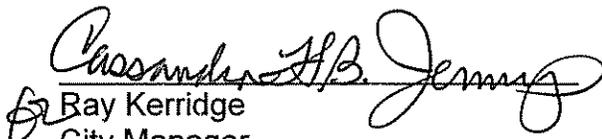
Financial Considerations: The estimated cost to operate one attendance center is \$230,000 to \$260,000 annually. Staff is requesting the City support one-third of the operation of the existing Center at Luther Burbank High School and potentially two additional sites. The remaining costs are to be matched by the participating school districts and the County of Sacramento. City funding for the first year will come from reallocating the \$245,800 balance available in the Community Schools Partnership CIP. These funds are proposed to be placed in the budget of the Office of Youth Development. Any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year will be rolled over to the next fiscal year. The Police Department will pursue other grant opportunities for subsequent years.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Daniel Hahn, Captain

Approved by: 
Albert Najera, Chief of Police

Recommendation Approved:


Ray Kerridge
City Manager

Ref: COP 5-34

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Attachment 1**Background**

On October 10, 2006, the Sacramento Police Department, in partnership with the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD), the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA), and several Community Based Organizations (CBO), opened the Luther Burbank Attendance Center as a pilot project. The goal of the project was to ascertain the root causes of truancy for individual students and address those causes through social services and community based solutions. By addressing the root causes of truancy, more students are expected to attend school and, thereby, receive an education.

The Attendance Center is staffed with a DHA Social Worker, several CBO's, and two staff members from the SCUSD. Truant students are located in the neighborhood and brought to the center by police officers. Every student's attendance record is researched by school staff to determine the extent of the truancy issue. Each student is contacted and assessed by the social worker. The parents of the student are contacted by telephone and asked to respond to the center to pick-up their child. Counseling services are provided to the student and their parents by County Social Services and CBO's, such as Another Choice Another Chance, La Familia Counseling Center and Lamercie Youth Services. In the event that the parents are unable to respond to pick-up their child, a SCUSD bus transports the students back to their home school. Follow up visits at the student's home are conducted by social workers and police officers.

From October 10, 2006 through April 19, 2007, the Attendance Center has served 360 students. In addition to the SCUSD, students originated from the Elk Grove Unified School District (33), the San Juan Unified School District (4), the Center Unified School District (2), the Grant Joint Unified School District (4), and 10 of the students were not enrolled in school. The majority of students were from an area high school, but some were from middle (56) and elementary (7) schools. The following results were reported by the SCUSD:

- 143 parents/guardians were provided services and referrals at the Attendance Center
- 28 students were on probation
- 85 home visits were conducted by the DHA social worker and police officers
- 91% are attending daily in the two weeks following their visit to the Attendance Center
- 4 drop out students were placed back into school

As an additional benefit of the Attendance Center, specific property crimes within a half mile proximity of Luther Burbank High School have shown a decrease. Burglary (-2.3%), stolen vehicles (-11%), and vandalism (-22%) have all declined during the time the Attendance Center has been in operation.

The Police Department is currently exploring the possibility of expanding the Attendance Center concept throughout the City. This includes additional schools in the

SCUSD, Natomas Unified School District, Elk Grove Unified School District and the Grant Joint Union High School District. The challenge for maintaining the current Attendance Center and expanding the program to additional schools is funding. The personnel in the Luther Burbank Attendance Center are funded through their respective agencies. There is no outside funding. The following is the approximate annual (school year) cost of the current Attendance Center and can be used as a guide for future centers:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Social Worker: | \$116,000 |
| School Staff: | \$ 75,000 |
| (2) CBO Staff | \$ 50,000 |
| <u>Transportation</u> | <u>\$ 15,772</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$256,772 |

ATTENDANCE CENTER

Philosophy, Purpose and Goals

We now know that truancy is usually a symptom of other problems: difficult family situations, substance abuse, gang involvement, criminal activity, lack of school success, and other personal issues.

The Attendance Center is unique because it uses a holistic, rather than punitive, approach to reducing truancy.

For at-risk youth, success in school comes through engaging not only the students, but also their families. To achieve this, the collaboration of schools, law enforcement, community-based organizations, community, and families is crucial.

The Attendance Center's holistic process includes referrals for parenting classes, substance abuse counseling, family counseling, job skill training for both the parents and youth, and in/out-patient drug treatment.

The goal: To help the student achieve consistent school attendance towards a successful education.

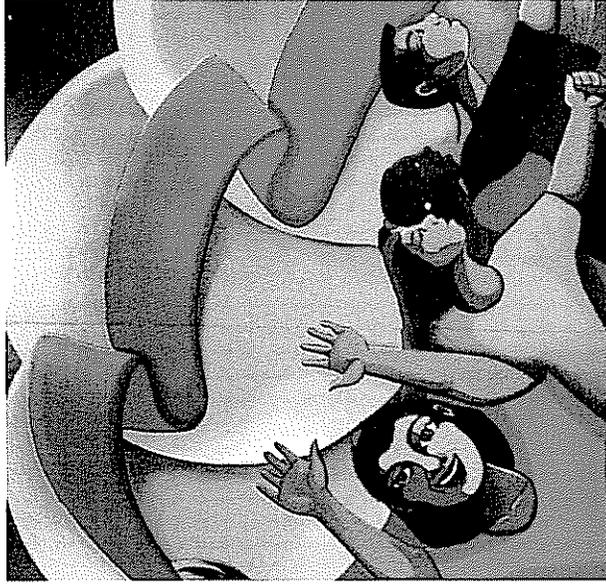
"Many parents are frustrated with their child's truancy problems and do not know where to turn. We are able to provide them with much-needed assistance with resources and support, and they have been very receptive and thankful for this assistance. The contact with the families makes a tremendous difference."

Human Services Social Worker Michelle Lau
Sacramento County Department of Human Services

ATTENDANCE CENTER

"One of the students told me that after her experience at the Attendance Center she has re-evaluated her situation and has made a decision to focus on her education. She has not been truant since."

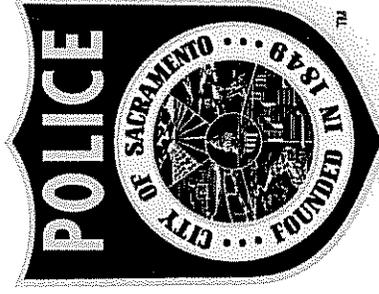
Child Welfare and Attendance Liaison Marsha Neilson
Sacramento City Unified School District



HELPING
OUR
COMMUNITY

HELPING
OUR
YOUTH

Community Partnership
Helping Our Youth



CURRENT

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS:

Sacramento Police Department
Sacramento City Unified School District
Sacramento County Dept. of Human Assistance
Another Choice Another Chance
La Familia Counseling Center

HOW THE ATTENDANCE CENTER MAKES A DIFFERENCE...

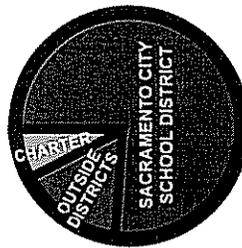
Now, more than ever, law enforcement is working in partnership with other service providers to benefit the community. We realize that a strict policing role does not get at the root of most social problems. Rather than treat the symptom of truancy, the Sacramento Police Department has chosen to work with others to help kids in trouble, with 91.7% of students attending school daily after being provided services. Parents and all residents, it is my hope that the Attendance Center at Burbank High School will be just the first of many throughout the Sacramento area.



Albert Nájera
Sacramento Police Chief

Some Statistics

- ▶ 48% of parents provided services
- ▶ 31% decrease in Grand Theft around the campus
- ▶ 16% decrease in Vandalism around the campus



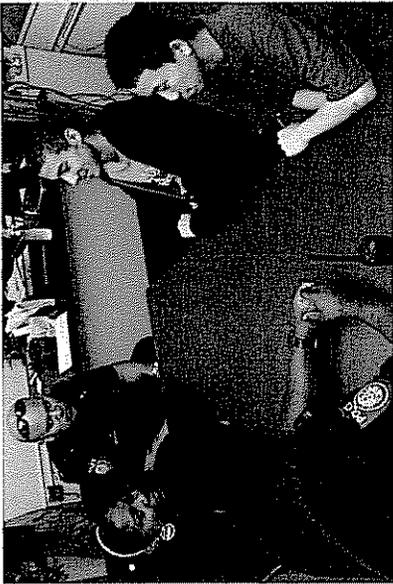
ORIGIN OF STUDENTS SERVED

Annual Attendance Center Costs

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Social Worker: | \$116,000 |
| Child Welfare Advocate: | \$75,000 |
| Community-Based Org. Staff: | \$50,000 |
| Transportation: | \$15,772 |
| TOTAL: | \$256,772 |

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK? *Attendance Center Triage, Referral, Follow-up*

1. Young persons discovered in the community and considered truant are brought to the Attendance Center.
2. The student meets with a family advocate from the school district, and the student's attendance records are reviewed.
3. A social worker meets with the student to determine underlying issues possibly causing truancy.
4. If issues requiring further counseling are discovered, staff from a community-based organization are brought into the process.
5. The young person's family is contacted and their involvement encouraged. The family becomes part of the solution.
6. After completing the triage and referral process, the student is returned to school or released to parents. The Attendance Center may initiate an attendance contract between the school and family providing checks and balances for monitoring the student's attendance.
7. If truancy continues, a police officer visits the home in case there are unknown, serious issues that may be causing the truancy, such as requiring Child Protective Services intervention.



Everyone Benefits

Students

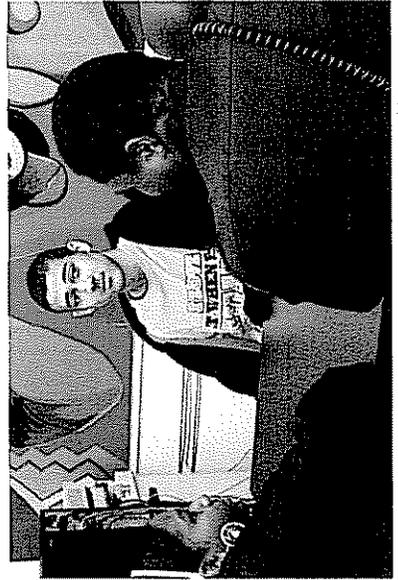
The ultimate goal of the program is to establish within a young person a positive attitude, and a desire and motivation to complete their education.

Families

The Attendance Center provides parents with an unexpected opportunity to discuss important issues with their children, with support of immediate resources and information.

Community

As students become less likely to be involved with drugs, criminal activity, gang activity or other negative social behaviors, crime in neighborhoods around schools is also reduced.



RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

PARTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ATTENDANCE CENTERS

BACKGROUND

- A. The Sacramento Police Department, in partnership with the Sacramento City Unified School District, the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance and several Community Based Organizations opened the Luther Burbank Attendance Center as a pilot project in October 2006.
- B. Preliminary results are indicating that the Center is being effective not only in reducing truancy, but also in reducing criminal activity in the area surrounding the school.
- C. There is interest on the part of other schools and school districts within the City to open other centers.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. Provide partial financial support to operate up to three attendance centers.
- Section 2. Increase the proposed FY2007/08 operating budget by 245,800 to include these funds in the Office of Youth Development budget.
- Section 3. Unspent funds will be rolled over to the subsequent fiscal year operating budget.

