

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the Innovation and Performance Commission's (IPC) Innovation Fund (IF) funding for the Connecting Neighborhood Justice Program from the Office of the City Attorney.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. ESTABLISH and APPROPRIATE a new appropriation account entitled Office of the City Attorney - Connecting Neighborhood Justice Program in the amount of \$170,000 within the IF Fund No. 105/10 from the available cash balance of the IF.
2. INSTRUCT the City Clerk to place on the agenda for the first regular meeting on or after July 1, 2021, the following item:

TRANSFER \$170,000 from the IF Fund No. 105/10, Account to be Established, City Attorney - Connecting Neighborhood Justice Program Fund No. 100/12 as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
100/12	003040	Contractual Services	\$170,000

3. INSTRUCT the City Attorney to:
  - a. Separately track all encumbrances and expenditures of IF monies so that unspent funds can be returned to the IF at the end of the fiscal year.
  - b. Report to the IPC with an accounting of the funds, the lessons learned, and any obstacles faced.
  - c. Report to the IPC if, after the receipt of funds, the scope of the funded item differs from the scope approved for funding by the Mayor and the Council.
4. AUTHORIZE the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to make technical corrections as necessary to those transactions included in the CAO report, dated February 11, 2021, attached to the Council file, to implement Mayor and Council intentions.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The CAO reports that approval of these recommendations will allocate \$170,000 of the remaining \$ 1,111,112 IF 2020-21 available balance. The \$170,000 will be transferred to the City Attorney to begin implementation of the pilot project that has been approved by the IPC. In some cases, departments will incur ongoing costs.

Financial Policies Statement: The CAO reports that the above recommendations are in compliance with the City's Financial Policies as IF monies are being utilized for an eligible project which will improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of City service through innovation, productivity, and performance measurement.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

## SUMMARY

At the meeting held on February 24, 2021, your Public Works Committee considered a CAO report relative to funding from the IF for Connecting Neighborhood Justice Program from the Office of the City Attorney. The CAO reports that the City Attorney's Neighborhood Justice Program (NJP) is a neighborhood-focused restorative justice initiative. Through the NJP, first-time offenders (Participants) are given an opportunity to repair the harm they caused through a community-based process, instead of in a courtroom. Community members play an active role as volunteer panelists (Panelists), where they meet with the Participant and the NJP case manager to discuss the crime through a restorative justice process.

The Participant and Panelists work together to determine appropriate consequences for the Participant, which can include community service, a letter of apology, financial restitution, and classes. The goal of the NJP is to address root causes of criminal behavior, reduce recidivism, enhance community relationships, and promote public safety and quality of life. Currently, City Attorney uses a system that requires the Participants and Panelists to call, text, or email with the NJP case managers until an amenable schedule can be agreed upon to meet for the panel. Through this pilot, City Attorney would like to create a consolidated system for Participant and Panelist scheduling, as well as create a gamified mobile phone app that would allow Participants to keep track of their obligations, enhance engagement, and link Participants to services. This pilot would provide the NJP dynamic multi-event and multi-person capabilities. After an opportunity for public comment was held, the Committee moved to approve the CAO's recommendations, as detailed above. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BLUMENFIELD:	YES
LEE:	YES
DE LEON:	YES
O'FARRELL	ABSENT
KORETZ:	YES

ME 2/24/21

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**