



JIM DESMOND
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

COSD CLERK OF THE BOARD
2022 JUN 6 PM12:10

DATE: June 14, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

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SUBJECT:

LIFTING UP AT-RISK STUDENTS, BUILDING LIFELONG BONDS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND SAFER CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Developing capable youth, safe schools, strong families, and responsible communities requires involving young people in organizations that positively influence and even change the trajectory of young lives for the better. For over 15 years, Camp LEAD (Leadership, Equity, Access, and Diversity) has been empowering students, from San Diego County, to become positive leaders on their campuses. Through practical, hands-on training, students work to identify and address their own behaviors and attitudes about ethnicity, culture, religion, race, physical ability, socioeconomics, gender, age, and lifestyle.

Camp LEAD brings together students who are considered high-risk, including academic and discipline issues with students who have been active and involved in campus programs. Together, along with adult mentors and counselors, they embark on a journey that increases empathy, self-awareness, school attendance and academic performance. For those youth at high-risk, they develop a new positive outlook with hope, purpose, and direction.

Camp LEAD is under the guidance of professionally trained staff, law enforcement officials, school personnel, and community volunteers. Students spend their time at Camp LEAD participating in discussions and exercises that focus on eliminating barriers brought about by prejudice, racial discrimination, and exclusivity. In the process, students find a sense of community at Camp LEAD and develop the skills to bring enhanced inclusivity back to campus.

Participating in a Camp LEAD program can potentially help students explore ways to address stress, anxiety, and substance abuse brought on by the COVID-19 shutdown. For these reasons and more, I have committed to support Camp LEAD with a \$50,000 grant allocation from the Small Business Grant Program to assist students that continue to be impacted the shutdown.

High school is a pivotal period in life. Camp LEAD can transform the lives of high schoolers and lay the foundation for future success in their adulthood. For many students, a little support and a

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positive atmosphere can make a major impact on their academic success and in their personal lives. Programs like Camp LEAD facilitate meaningful change.

Additionally, Camp LEAD offers a unique 3-day and 2-night bonding opportunity to strengthen relationships with law enforcement officials, who participate out of uniform, alongside the students for the first two days building, in some cases, life-long bonds. On the third day, law enforcement transitions back into uniform so that the students can make the connection that law enforcement officials care about them and their communities.

Each camp has approximately 100 campers and costs approximately \$15,000 for camp rentals and food service. The fee for professional staff is an additional \$8,000 for a total cost of \$23,000 per camp. Finding a permanent location could serve more youth in the region and reduce costs.

Today, you are being asked to help support Real Matters, Incorporated - the entity that offers Camp LEAD - and the Deputy Sheriff's Association effort to reach more students by directing the Chief Administrative Officer to help in connecting Camp LEAD with existing County partners who may be able to assist in searching for permanent camp locations to help reduce costs.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to assist Camp LEAD (Leadership, Equity, Access, and Diversity) with establishing connections to existing County partners who could assist in reducing operating costs by exploring permanent funding and camp locations.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Public safety is of the utmost importance for all communities and all county residents. Strong relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve are imperative to maintaining public safety. Ensuring equitable access to law enforcement is necessary to reduce disparities in unserved and underserved communities. Inadequate law enforcement most negatively impacts those in the lower socioeconomic strata of society and communities of color. Ensuring that law and order is maintained protects the most vulnerable in society. We at the County are committed to achieving the highest standards in establishing the safest environment for children of all socioeconomic backgrounds to thrive and grow in their relationships with law enforcement.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's action. There is no change in net General Fund costs and staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

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BACKGROUND

Camp LEAD (Leadership, Equity, Access, and Diversity) was founded in response to the tragic shootings in 2001 at Santana High School and Granite Hills High School which took the lives of 7 students and threatened the lives of 13 students. Since the horrific events, Camp LEAD has helped bring the high school community, in San Diego County, together to improve inclusivity, self-awareness, and create a more positive environment for students to develop as leaders. Additional funding from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors can help sustain and support Camp LEAD in making a meaningful difference in the lives of San Diego County high schoolers.

Assessments of student-held beliefs and sentiments toward their high school environment have indicated extremely positive results from Camp LEAD. A Local Evaluation Report indicated that prior to Camp LEAD, students felt they had more friends who got into trouble frequently than friends who did well in school, indicating the need for substantial reform. Fortunately, following Camp LEAD, the number of student attendees who were previously labeled high risk declined, grades improved, absenteeism improved, and likelihood of graduating on time improved.

For over 15 years, Camp LEAD has been empowering students from San Diego County to become positive leaders on their campuses. Through practical hands-on training, students work to identify and address their own behaviors and attitudes about ethnicity, culture, religion, race, physical ability, socioeconomics, gender, age, and lifestyle.

Camp LEAD brings together students who are considered high-risk with academic and discipline problems with students who have been active and involved in campus programs. Together, along with adult participants they embark on a journey that increases empathy, self-awareness, school attendance, academic performance, and for those youth at high-risk they develop a new positive outlook with hope, purpose, and direction.

Camp LEAD is under the guidance of a professionally trained staff, law enforcement officials, school personnel, and community volunteers. Students spend their time at Camp LEAD participating in discussions and exercises that focus on eliminating barriers brought about by prejudice, racial discrimination, and exclusivity. In the process, students find a sense of community at Camp LEAD and develop the skills to bring enhanced inclusivity back to campus.

High school is a pivotal period in life. Camp LEAD can transform the lives of high schoolers and lay the foundation for future success in their adulthood. For many students, a little support and a positive atmosphere can make a major impact on their academic success and in their personal life. Programs like Camp LEAD facilitate meaningful change.

Additionally, Camp LEAD offers a unique bonding opportunity to strengthen relationships with law enforcement officials who participate out of uniform, alongside the students for the first two days building in some cases life-long bonds. On the third day, law enforcement transitions back into uniform so that students can make the connection that law enforcement officials care about them and their communities.

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Each camp has approximately 100 campers and costs approximately \$15,000 for camp rentals and food service. The fee for professional staff is an additional \$8,000 for a total cost of \$23,000 per camp.

Developing a more inclusive high school environment is also linked to the development of a safer environment. Camp LEAD has historically improved students understanding of empathy, conflict resolution, and the roles of bystanders, perpetrators, victims, and confronters in conflict situations.

Camp LEAD has resulted in a broad range of benefits for school districts. Positive resources such as Camp LEAD are necessary and effective in San Diego County. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors needs to encourage positive development and student support by bolstering programs like Camp LEAD.

Today's actions would direct the Chief Administrative Officer to help Camp LEAD in establishing connections with existing County partners who may assist in reducing operating costs by exploring permanent funding and locations.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed action supports the Community Initiative of the County of San Diego's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan by making health, safety and thriving a focus of all policies through internal and external collaboration and pursuing policy and program change for healthy, safe, and thriving to positively impact residents.

Respectfully submitted,



JIM DESMOND
Supervisor, Fifth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A