



Staff Report

REPORT TO COUNCIL ON BELMONT POLICE EXPLORER POST #824

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

Staff is sharing with Council its intention to re-charter the Belmont Police Explorer Post #824.

Background

Law Enforcement Exploring is an international organization. Law Enforcement Exploring was established in San Mateo County in the mid-1960s. It is a career oriented program for young adults from ages 14-21 that gives them the opportunity to explore a career in law enforcement by working directly with local police agencies. It gives them real life experience and helps build character, develop life skills, citizenship, and leadership skills.

There are currently 20 agencies in San Mateo County participating in Law Enforcement Exploring. We are a member of the Pacific Skyline Council of the Law Enforcement division of "Learning for Life". We are also a member of The Peninsula Law Enforcement Exploring Advisors' Association which coordinates activities for all explorers in the county and runs the Explorer Academy. The academy is an 8 week program designed along the lines of a mini police academy. The academy is sponsored by the Police Chiefs' and Sheriff's Association of San Mateo County, the College of San Mateo, and the Exploring Division of the Pacific Skyline Council.

Discussion

Historically, Law Enforcement Exploring has proven to be a valuable tool for recruitment and retention purposes. It enables officers to work directly with the community in a positive way and participate in developing and mentoring young people and potentially new officers. Within the structure of the Post the police advisors are also developing leadership skills as they prepare to take on greater roles within the Belmont Police Department.

A successful Exploring program requires a level of commitment from both staff and line-level officers. There are currently five officers who have made a commitment to the program to act as advisors. Interestingly enough, four of the five officers have prior experience either as advisors or participants in Law Enforcement Exploring. Active recruiting for members has begun and we hope to have two candidates participate in the upcoming academy at the end of January 2008.

Fiscal Impact

The cost of the program would be approximately \$2,000 which would include charter fees, membership, uniforms, and supervision. The source of funding will come from accounts 101-2101-8591 and 101-2101-8612.

Public Contact

This item has been placed on the City Council agenda.

Recommendation

Staff offers this report to communicate with the City Council the indented plan of action set forth herein. No formal action by the City Council is required.

Alternatives

1. Refer back to staff for further information.

Attachments

Belmont Police Explorer flyer

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Ritter
Police Corporal

Donald J. Mattei
Chief of Police

Jack R. Crist
City Manager