



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 05-2832, **Version:** 1

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Recommendation to authorize City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Greater Long Beach National Conference for Community and Justice to provide Human Dignity Program services for a period of one year in an amount not to exceed \$93,000. (Citywide)

In September 1999, the City Council authorized resources to develop a Human Dignity Program (Program). On December 13, 1999, a Human Dignity Program Officer was hired to implement the Program. Key elements of the Program include a hate crime response team, an inter-group conflict resolution team and diversity training to promote community harmony and mutual acceptance.

In February 2000, the City of Long Beach entered into an agreement with the Greater Long Beach National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) to provide training for the Hate Crime Response Team members and conduct community awareness events and other outreach activities to promote the Program. Attachment A lists recent highlights of the Human Dignity Program\NCCJ accomplishments. The scope of service has been amended to allow NCCJ to play a fundamental role in coordinating resources for the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force. The agreement with the NCCJ has expired, and City Council approval is requested to authorize another one-year agreement from February 2005 through January 2006.

Through the Program, law enforcement, governmental institutions, the religious community, the educational community, grass roots organizations, and community and neighborhood associations are networked to share resources and send a citywide message of tolerance. By utilizing NCCJ, extensive community human relations outreach and education have been conducted resulting in increased cultural acceptance and awareness. Presentations have been made throughout the City and surrounding areas.

The effectiveness of the Program is monitored through victim assistance surveys, community surveys and by an increased awareness of what constitutes a hate crime. Individuals and organizations report that the Program has proven to be a valuable resource for the citizens of Long Beach in the ongoing efforts to eliminate hate crimes and ensure that visitors and residents are treated with dignity and respect. The City has gained local, state and national recognition for this Program.

The Program is especially proud of its precedent-setting partnership with the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD). The Human Dignity Program and the LBPD work closely to identify, report and provide resources to victims of hate crimes and bias incidents. In an effort to coordinate information, the LBPD has revised their standard forms and developed support documents that include the Program components.

With a well-deserved reputation as a leader in the human relations field, NCCJ has been vital to the Program's efforts. The proposed agreement will continue to allow the City of Long Beach, Human Dignity Program, to benefit from that experience.

This letter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna Gwin on June 1, 2005 and by Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on June 2, 2005

City Council action is requested on June 21, 2005 to ensure the continuation of NCCJ services.

The agreement amount is \$93,000 for a one-year period. This represents the same level of funding as the previous agreement. Funds are budgeted in the General Fund (GP) in the City Manager Department (CM).

Approve recommendation.

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[Respectfully Submitted,]