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CITY MANAGER

Since the Council's action on December 9, 2021, to allocate \$950,000 in ARPA dollars for the Advance Peace program, City staff had been attempting to establish a contract with Fresno EOC.

This has proven to be very challenging on many fronts including the fact that Advance Peace is a program, not a business entity that can receive funds directly. Therefore, contracting must be between the City and EOC.

On April 15th, the results of Operation No Fly Zone were announced during a press conference with Attorney General Rob Bonta. One of the suspects in this operation who worked for Advance Peace was arrested for conspiracy to commit murder.

Shortly thereafter, Chief Balderrama, who had been a strong supporter of Advance Peace, informed me that the Fresno Police Department would no longer be able to work in partnership with Advance Peace, or share information with them due to several concerning issues coming to light during the investigation. These details extend beyond the arrest of an Advance Peace employee.

The Chief was adamant that due to the criminal indictment of an Advance Peace member for conspiracy to commit murder, threats made to at least one city council member, and the misuse of sensitive information provided to Advance Peace, Fresno PD could no longer partner, share information, or work with Advance Peace under the current model.

The violence prevention program that the City intended to fund depended on a cooperative relationship between the Police Department and Advance Peace, which no longer exists.

As a result, the \$950,000 has been allocated for gang prevention and intervention programs. This was communicated to Fresno EOC in mid-May. At that time, the offer was extended to continue a partnership with Fresno EOC on gang prevention and intervention programming- but not the Advance Peace model.

This Administration is committed to reducing gang violence throughout Fresno and funding programs that will reduce gun violence in the African American community. This was the primary reason for Operation No Fly Zone which was directly responsible for preventing numerous shootings of African American victims that would have otherwise occurred if not for this operation.

On this public safety matter, I must trust the judgment of my Police Chief when he conveys serious concerns regarding Advance Peace and that the trust and partnership have been compromised. Not only do I trust Chief Balderrama, but I firmly stand by his decision.