

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
JANUARY 21, 2014 AGENDA**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
<p>An ordinance to fund a pilot program in partnership with LRSD to provide career training and education to older youth (18-24); to dispense with the requirement of competitive bids; to declare an emergency; and for other purposes.</p> <p>Submitted By:</p> <p>Community Programs Department</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓ Ordinance Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>
SYNOPSIS	<p>This ordinance authorizes a sole source agreement with the Little Rock School District to provide career training and education to older youth eighteen (18) – twenty-four (24) who have dropped out of high school, who have graduated without skills for immediate employment, and who lack positive community connections.</p>	
FISCAL IMPACT	<p>The cost of the contract is \$235,000.00 for a six (6)-month program. It is believed that fifty (50) additional youth can be trained as a result of this funding. The monies are included in the 2014 appropriation of PIT Programs.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Approval of the ordinance.</p>	
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION	<p>This program has been reviewed and recommended by the Commission on Children, Youth and Families.</p>	

BACKGROUND

One aim of the mission of PIT Programs is to help develop youth who are employable because of the education and training they have received. Sometimes, though, youth drop out of school before graduation, and the lack of a diploma and other skills make it extremely difficult for them to find jobs. The Little Rock School District operates an educational and occupational training program at the Metropolitan Career Education Center at 7701 Scott Hamilton Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas. This program can be enhanced by fifty (50) additional students if the District can find funds to hire the additional instructors. This contract with the City provides the funds the District needs for a pilot program to operate between January 1, 2014, and June 30, 2014.

The tie with the local school district is deemed very important to the City's PIT goals and mission. Therefore, it is not practical to competitively bid this contract and assure that the school district will actually operate the program. This ordinance permits a contract without competitive bids.

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