

**TAB 5**



# City of Palmetto Agenda Item

**Meeting Date**

11/7/11

**Presenter:** Chief Wells

**Department:** Police

**Title: Victor Woods Motivational Speaker**

In an effort to reduce crime amongst troubled youth, the Palmetto PD is working on several programs to reduce crime in targeted areas throughout the City and CRA. The Police department budgeted for several of these programs as part of the Police sub plan that is being funded from CRA dollars. The overall objective is to reduce crime.

Victor Woods is a nationally known motivational speaker and has been working with the department for a couple of months. His background and unique message have been instrumental in reaching some of our most troubled youth; the very people that are at the heart of our most violent crime.

The City has expended \$8,000 to date for services provided or to be provided at various events throughout the City. The Palmetto Police department would like to continue using Mr. Woods in as many venues as possible over the next year until October 2012. In order to make this happen, Mr. Woods has agreed to make himself available for these events during the next year for an additional \$8,000 for a total of \$16,000(\$8,000 already paid plus an additional \$8,000). The money for this expenditure will come from dollars previously budgeted for two patrol cars in the CRA sub plan. The cost of these vehicles was less expensive and there are surplus dollars available.

**Budgeted Amount:**  **Budget Page No(s):**  **Available Amount:** \$16,000 **Expenditure Amount:** \$16,000

**Additional Budgetary Information:** Dollars for this expenditure from surplus in 0015216401-Machinery CPIP/CRA(overestimated cost for two patrol cars)

**Funding Source(s):**  **Sufficient Funds Available:**  Yes  No **Budget Amendment Required:**  Yes  No **Source:**

**City Attorney Reviewed:**  Yes  No  N/A **Advisory Board Recommendation:**  For  Against  N/A **Consistent With:**  Yes  No  N/A

**Potential Motion/ Direction Requested:** Motion to ratify the \$8,000 expenditure and authorize an additional payment of \$8,000 for speaking services provided by Mr. Victor Woods to the City of Palmetto Police Department as required until October 2012.

**Staff Contact:** Chief Rick Wells

**Attachments:** Victor Woods Bio

## VICTOR WOODS

Mr. Victor Woods is an author, National Speaker and CNN contributor whose autobiography, "A Breed Apart: A Journey to Redemption" is published by Simon and Schuster. Mr. Woods' television appearances include CNN, The O'Reilly Factor, BET, C-Span and ABC News. His story has appeared in noteworthy publications including The Chicago Tribune, The Chicago Sun Times, The St. Petersburg Times, and The Oklahoma Herald to name a few. In 2007, Ebony Magazine published an article about Mr. Woods and his achievements.

What makes Mr. Woods' story so phenomenal is his beginning. Born to an affluent family, he turned to crime at an early age. At 19, he organized one of the largest armed robbery rings in Illinois. After months of investigation, a task force of 60 detectives arrested Victor and his crew which landed Victor in prison. After his release from prison, Victor returned to a life of crime and became the mastermind of a \$40 million credit card conspiracy. The United States Secret Service ultimately arrested and prosecuted Victor. He was sentenced to six years in prison.

While in prison, with the encouragement of his cellmate, a reputed mob hitman, Victor began to change his life and vowed to never again return to a life of crime. He began speaking in prison and writing his autobiography.

Upon his release, Mr. Woods began speaking nationally and published his autobiography. Mr. Woods recently keynoted the Juvenile Justice Conference in Georgia and has spoken in prisons, schools, universities, churches, businesses and for community organizations across the nation, including keynoting at the Madison, Wisconsin State Capitol, The Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference at the request of the Florida Attorney General, the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice Conference, the National Association of Black Journalists Convention, The International Association of Truancy and Dropout Prevention, and recently at the National At-Risk Youth Conference in Savannah to name a few. Mr. Woods recently shared the stage with former UN Ambassador and activist, Mr. Andrew Young, speaking to youth at the St. Louis Performing Arts Center. His college appearances include the Morehouse College of Business and Fordham University.

Mr. Woods works with law enforcement agencies across the United States working on crime prevention including working with Chief Lester Arardi, the head of the 60 detective task force who arrested him and his armed robbery ring.

Currently, Mr. Woods is working with Hollywood producers to adapt his life story into a major motion picture.