

TAB 6



City of Palmetto Agenda Item

Meeting Date

4/16/12

Presenter: Chief Rick Wells

Department: Police Department

Title:

UNIDOS/ Palmetto Youth Center Future Leaders Academy

In an effort to build lasting relationships in our community and reduce crime, the Police Department continues to seek out and adopt new and innovative programs to reach the young people in the City. The UNIDOS initiative is just such a program. UNIDOS seeks to identify at risk middle and high school age students and offer strong mentors that emphasize character building, good decision making, and education. The UNIDOS program not only endeavors to help at risk children to succeed academically; it also helps prepare them for the work force by identifying their strengths and interests and matching them with local businesses and job opportunities. This program has direct benefits within our City by creating a workforce of skilled, motivated young people from our most economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods that will benefit our City and its economy for years to come. This program also has great value as a crime prevention tool that promotes safe neighborhoods by affording the City's young people positive interaction and opportunities.

The Police Department is asking to use \$2,000.00 from their Reserves for Law Enforcement account to partially fund the UNIDOS program. Since the UNIDOS project is a crime prevention initiative, it is permissible to use funds from the Reserves for Law Enforcement, pending approval by City Commission.

Budgeted Amount: **Budget Page No(s):** **Available Amount:** **Expenditure Amount:** \$2,000.00

Additional Budgetary Information:

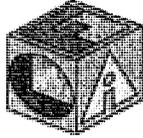
Funding Source(s): **Sufficient Funds Available:** Yes No **Budget Amendment Required:** Yes No **Source:**

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

Potential Motion/ Direction Requested: Authorize the Police Department to use \$2,000.00 from its Reserves for Law Enforcement Account to help fund the UNIDOS Project.

Staff Contact: Chief Wells Police Department

Attachments: F.S.S 932.7055, UNIDOS description



UNIDOS NOW

Future Leaders Academy

A Collaborative Project

UnidosNow / Latino Excellence of Sarasota / Gulfcoast Latin Chamber of Commerce

Education Director: Estela Curiel

“Developing Leadership Skills that promise a shining future for Palmetto’s Hispanic Youth”

Future Leaders Academy (FLA) of Palmetto Program Justification and Description

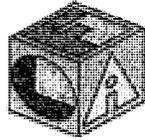
The City of Palmetto is now comprised of a nearly 30% Hispanic population, putting it at the top of Southwest Florida cities and largest percentage of Latino residents. With such rapidly increasing diversity, there are many opportunities for future prosperity for Palmetto, but there are as equal as many opportunities for conflict and an erosion of quality of life should there not be concerted, thoughtful and well-implemented programs that look to best embrace and integrate this new population. Successful immigrant integration programs from around the country have demonstrated that engaging youth and ensuring their academic success through high school, is not only a critical way to break cycles of poverty, but also of bringing the entire immigrant family into greater communication with the community where they live. Currently, only about half of all Latino students earn their high school diploma on time in the state of Florida; those who do complete high school are only half as likely as their peers to be prepared for college. Just 13% of Latinos in the United States have a bachelor's degree, and only 4% have completed a graduate or professional degree program. Overall, Latinos have the lowest education attainment levels of any group in the US, including particularly in Florida.

The Future Leaders Academy is a collaborative project between UnidosNow, Latino Excellence of Sarasota and the Gulfcoast Latin Chamber of Commerce. The project, to be housed in the Palmetto Youth Center, is an intense training designed to provide at-risk, Hispanic middle and high school students from Palmetto with tools that will help them improve academically, gain real life working experience, graduate and explore possibilities to continue their education beyond high school. The Future Leaders Academy is a unique mentoring, leadership, college and career preparation program that not only complements other programs in the community but is particularly committed to getting to know each Hispanic student and their unique course that has brought them to this point living in the City of Palmetto. **Individualized service** for our students will allow full potential development, based on each student's profile. Meetings take place every week during the school year and also include a total immersion program during the summer that includes the opportunities for paid and unpaid internships for rising juniors and seniors working for area businesses who are members of the Gulf Coast Latin Chamber of Commerce.

Beyond the three aforementioned partners, other organizations who have already expressed an interest to participate in the launch and success of this new program include: the University of South Florida, New College of Florida, State College of Florida, Sarasota Technical Institute, Manatee Technical Institute and Junior Achievers.

Admission to the Future Leaders Academy (FLA) is competitive and will be seen as an honor throughout the community to participate in the same. There will be an application to demonstrate willingness and aptitude to participate by both the student and his/her family, including clear rules and expectations that need to be agreed to, should the student be admitted to the program. In addition to competitive admission, the family will be charged a nominal fee of \$10/month to participate – ensuring that each family respects and appreciates that this is an investment by everyone. The vision for FLA is that within a few years, Hispanic families of Palmetto view the academy in similar eyes as attending IMG sports academy – that they recognize sacrifices of time and some of their limited finances,

January 2012



UNIDOS NOW

Future Leaders Academy

knowing that the child will ultimately benefit in a multitude of ways, that dwarf their sacrifice. School year long courses begin in September and end in May. Students make the commitment to attend two hour weekly sessions and participate in an intensive, summer session. We are attempting to start this program in the spring semester, starting in February of 2012, to begin the active recruitment and introduction of the program to the Palmetto community, in hopes of having the intensive summer session ready to go in June with an active student group of up to forty students.

Future Leaders Academy Outcomes

Weekly sessions held in the convenient, centrally located Palmetto Youth Center, will help students acquire different skills that are not usually taught in high school and which will prepare them to:

- **Graduate** from high school at the top 20%
- Apply for at least **two scholarships** at the federal, state or local level
- Increase their **financial literacy** to do such things as open a banking account, balance a check book, and prepare & maintain budgets
- Complete a successful packet of at least 100 hours of **community service** hours in different projects throughout their term enrolled at FLA (average of two hours a week)
- Explore and choose at least **two career paths** including one or two year technical degrees, four year college careers, and master's and doctorate specialties.
- Have the opportunity for at least **two summer internships** with area businesses who are members of the Gulfcoast Latin Chamber of Commerce
- **Enroll in college** or other kind of training for the fall immediately following their graduation

All students that successfully complete each year receive a certificate of Leadership at a graduation ceremony plus their whole packet of community service hours for the year to bring back to their schools.

Youth Development Principles

Teaching at Future Leaders Academy encompasses the following principles:

1. Focus on Positive
2. Encourage personal responsibility
3. View youth as a resource
4. Create an individual vision
5. Nourish determination
6. Encourage cooperation
7. Unleash leadership potential
8. Awaken a caring spirit
9. Provide tools to overcome obstacles
10. Believe in a better future

Activities for Future Leaders Academy

Activities at Future Leaders Academy include Self Assessment Workshops, Internships, Career Presentations, Financial Education, Math/Science Club, Reading Competition, SAT/ACT Prep, Career Fairs, Job Shadowing, Team Building, Individual Mentoring, Resumes/Interview Skills, College Tours, Summer Camps, Art Exploration, Cultural and Social Events.

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UNIDOS NOW Future Leaders Academy

Future Leaders Academy Budget

City of Palmetto

Hosted at the Palmetto Youth Center

Feb 2012 – December 2012

<u>Support and Revenue (INCOME)</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Grants/Donations	35,000	
Membership per year (Feb-December)	3,850	
❖ 35 Students (\$10/mo for 11 months) – \$3,850		
Fundraising	2,000	
Contributions (in kind, board, donors)	_____	
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	40,850	
<u>Expenses (COMPENSATION)</u>		
Salaries/Wages (Feb 2012 - Dec 2012)		
❖ (\$3,000/mo) Palmetto Coordinator (33K)	33,000	
Employee Benefits (75/mo)	825	
Payroll Taxes (7.6%) estimated	2,508	
<u>Expenses (NON COMPENSATION)</u>		
Occupancy - in kind (\$100/mo)	_____	
Tel/Fax/Internet (\$50/mo)	550	
Insurance – liability	_____	
Printing: business cards, newsletters	500	
Computer	900	
Postage (newsletters, copies, etc. \$100/mo)	500	
Marketing	250	
Transportation stipend for students	300	
Other: educational materials, food, etc	1,500	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES estimated	\$40,833	

Revised 01/25/2012