



# Press Release

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For Immediate Release: **Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

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**Event:** **Weed and Seed Program** *“Meet and Greet”*

**When:** **4:00p.m. - 6:30p.m., Tuesday** **May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**Where:** **Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church**  
**2040 Nassau Drive, San Jose, CA 95122**

The focus of the Weed and Seed Program is to “weed out” violent crime, gang activity, drug use and drug trafficking in selected neighborhoods. Community resources are then used to “seed” the target area for social and economic revitalization and long-term stability. Weed and Seed consists of four strategies:

- Law Enforcement
- Community Policing
- Prevention, Intervention & Treatment (including Community Mobilization, Education and Empowerment)
- Neighborhood Restoration

***“Safe and livable neighborhoods are a priority for all of our residents. In combination with the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative, the Weed and Seed program helps to meet the need for additional resources in our community.” (Councilmember Nora Campos)***

In October 2003, the City of San Jose applied to the U.S. Department of Justice Weed and Seed Program for official recognition status for police beat “Charles 3.” This neighborhood was chosen because of the high crime rate. The geographic boundaries include Story Road, King Road, Tully Road and Karl Street. This neighborhood lies within two existing Strong Neighborhoods Initiative areas, the Valley/680 Communities and the King/Ocala Neighborhood Area (K.O.N.A.).

“Charles 3” has since been officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site and became eligible to apply for grant funding. The funding, which was awarded to San Jose in March 2005 and totals **\$175,000**, will strengthen and increase targeted efforts by the Police Department (SJPD); Code Enforcement; Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS); the Redevelopment Agency (SJRA); and the Community. This funding will build upon almost **\$3,500,000** to date in Strong Neighborhoods Initiative investments for the Valley/680 and K.O.N.A. neighborhoods.

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Weed and Seed funding will allow residents and community leaders, community-based organizations, local businesses, schools and City, County and Federal staff to coordinate efforts in implementing this strategy over the next five years.

This funding will enhance and improve upon efforts already underway in this area, including the efforts of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative already implemented in the Valley/680 and K.O.N.A. neighborhoods. The strategy will focus on reducing gang activity, reducing drug and alcohol activity, reducing the truancy rate at local schools, improving the relationship between police officers and the community and increasing family and youth support services.

***“The Weed & Seed Program is another example of community investment and diligence towards improving neighborhoods. I am excited at the expanding horizons for San Jose neighborhoods and look forward to supporting the efforts of our residents, city agencies and non-profit partners.” (Councilmember David Cortese)***

Community members will have the opportunity to “meet and greet” police officers and city staff members from code enforcement, SNI, PRNS, Dept. of Transportation, local service providers and others to address crime as a coordinated partnership and effort. They will also have the opportunity to sign-up for volunteer opportunities. There will be free food, children's games and information resource tables (representing 15 partner agencies and/or city departments). Councilmembers Nora Campos and David Cortese are also scheduled to appear.

Inquiries may be directed to the San Jose P.D. Press Information Office at 408-277-5339.

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