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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** North Richmond Waste & Recovery Mitigation Fee  
Joint Expenditure Planning Committee

**FROM:** Robert J. Kochly *RJK*  
District Attorney

**DATE:** April 4, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Potential Funding for Prosecutor

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I applaud the efforts of your group in attempting to identify successful strategies for improving the quality of life for North Richmond residents through the use of the Waste Mitigation fees. Certainly the use of these fees should emphasize the issues most directly related to the location of the landfill/transfer station in the North Richmond community. Rightly, you have identified illegal dumping as the issue with the most direct nexus to the landfill location.

As District Attorney, I believe my office could make a positive impact on the issue of illegal dumping, if mitigation fees are used to partially fund a Deputy District Attorney, in conjunction with funding of a dedicated investigator to build prosecutable cases.

However, I also believe that mitigation fees can and should be used to fund activities of a Deputy District Attorney who could work on a broad range of issues that affect the quality of life for North Richmond residents. The proximity of the landfill/transfer station to this area affects the community in a variety of ways. The landfill affects property values which, in turn, affects how people care for their property. The landfill affects what types of businesses are attracted to the area, which can mean too many liquor stores that bring other associated criminal activities with them. In sum, many of the ills suffered by North Richmond residents can be traced, at least in part, to the existence of a landfill on their doorstep.

I believe that my office could have a much broader, positive impact on this community if we adopted a more holistic approach. I am proposing that mitigation fees be used to fund, at least partially, a Community Prosecutor who could broadly attack whatever quality of life issues the community identifies as priorities. Illegal dumping could certainly be one of those issues, but so could vandalism/graffiti, prostitution, enforcement of laws surrounding problem liquor stores, drug sales, and public nuisances. This list is not intended to be exclusive, but merely a starting point for discussion. The community should have an opportunity to share their ideas and help set priorities. A Community Prosecutor would have the ability to use both traditional criminal prosecution techniques, as well as non-traditional means, such as civil actions or non-

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legal mechanisms like mediation. This approach focuses on finding solutions and creative problem-solving, not just obtaining criminal convictions.

I hope you will seriously consider my suggestion. I would be glad to address your group to answer any questions or provide further information.

RJK:ped

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