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## More anti-gang funds OK'd; Visalia City Council wants half of nonprofit grants for youth intervention

BY GERALD CARROLL

*gcarroll@visalia.gannett.com*

Half of the \$160,000 that the city of Visalia donates to nonprofit groups each year must go toward anti-gang efforts, the Visalia City Council determined this week.

By a 5-0 vote, council members doubled the amount earmarked for such efforts.

The council also voted to eliminate a three-year funding limit.

The grant program is operated through the city's Citizens Advisory Committee, which will continue to require applicants to attend a grant-writing workshop.

Last year, a boxing club was denied funding because representatives failed to participate.

Raymond Macareno, a spokesman for the boxing group, said club officials were unaware of when and where the required workshops were conducted.

"We could make the work-shop requirement optional," Councilman Mike Lane said. "But that would still put applicants at a disadvantage [should they not attend]."

### Additional Facts

How to apply

Applications for grants for nonprofits are available:

- At City Hall West, 707 W. Acequia Ave., Visalia.
- Through the office of city financial analyst Jason Montgomery, 713-4425, or by e-mail, [jmontgomery@ci.visalia.us](mailto:jmontgomery@ci.visalia.us).

The application deadline is Aug. 20.

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