

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## AGENDA REPORT

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

2008 APR 10 PM 4:26

**To:** Office of the City Administrator  
**Attn:** Deborah Edgerly  
**From:** Police Department  
**Date:** April 15, 2008

**Re: Supplemental to A Report and Proposed Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator, on Behalf of the City of Oakland, to Accept and Appropriate Grant Funds in an Amount Not to Exceed Four Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five Dollars (\$454,965) from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (USDOJ/NIJ) for Implementation of the FY 2008 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Grant Program in the Police Department and Approving the Hiring of One Full-Time, Eighteen-Month Limited Duration Professional Staff Position for the Research, Planning, and Crime Analysis Division**

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On April 8, 2008, the Police Department presented a report and proposed resolution to accept funds associated with the 2008 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Grant Program. The Public Safety Committee requested additional information on crime lab staffing authorized in the mid-cycle budget in 2006.

*How were the funds previously allocated by City Council for new Crime Lab staff spent (or not)?*

Three additional Criminalist II positions were authorized in the mid-cycle budget in July 2006. The three positions were filled by the second quarter of 2007. All incumbents required extensive training in Forensic Biology/DNA analysis in order to meet mandatory federal standards for training in this area. Training typically takes 6-12 months to complete. One person has completed the training and has been advanced to casework; a second person is nearing completion of her training and will be advanced to casework shortly. The incumbent in the third position resigned his employment in December 2007. That position is currently vacant and, along with another Forensic Biology Unit vacancy, is the subject of a recruitment effort that has been underway for several months. We expect to test for these positions within the next month.

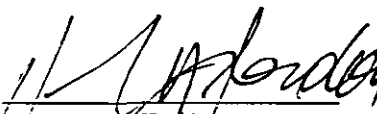
*Could these funds have been used to fund overtime costs for Crime Lab staff to help address and/or reduce the current backlog?*

It is appropriate to use general fund monies identified as salary savings to fund overtime costs. However, we do not expect that the backlog would have been significantly reduced given the amount of overtime that staff were already required to work and the number of casework qualified staff (5 FTE Criminalists) available for the work between July 2006 and June 2007—the point in time by which all vacancies were filled.

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The staff of the Forensic Biology Unit routinely works overtime in order to meet investigative and court driven deadlines. In addition, the Department has received two federal grants that require additional overtime directed at the analysis of these backlogged cases. The NIJ DNA Backlog 2006 Grant, which concluded in March 2008, was aimed at analyzing some of the unanalyzed sexual assault evidence in the Department's possession—part of the backlog. We have a commitment to work overtime on ten sexual assault homicide cases under the 2007 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Grant Program. The 2008 Solving Cold Cases Grant Program would provide overtime funding to examine and additional 50 backlogged unsolved sexual assault cases.


Respectfully submitted,

  
FOR Wayne G. Tucker  
Chief of Police

Prepared by:

Mary M. Gibbons  
Criminalistics Division  
Bureau of Investigation

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO  
THE CITY COUNCIL:

  
Office of the City Administrator

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