

**CITY OF OAKLAND  
AGENDA REPORT**

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

2007 SEP 13 PM 3: 58

**To:** Office of the City Administrator  
**Attn:** Deborah Edgerly  
**From:** Police Department  
**Date:** September 25, 2007

**Re: 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 One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Five Hundred and Forty-Seven Dollars (\$145,547) from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (USDOJ/NIJ) for Implementation of the 2007 Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Grant Program in the Police Department**

---

**SUMMARY**

This report and resolution authorizes the City Administrator, on behalf of the City of Oakland, to accept and appropriate grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$145,547 from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (USDOJ/NIJ) for implementation of the 2007 Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program. The proposed program period is October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. The funds will be used to offset costs to the Police Department's Criminalistics Division Forensic Biology Unit relative to increased capabilities in analyzing biological evidence associated with criminal cases.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Approval of the proposed resolution will authorize the application, acceptance and appropriation of U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, grant program funds for the Police Department's 2007 Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program for the project term October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008, in the estimated amount of \$145,547. Funding will be appropriated to the Federal Grant Fund (2112); Criminalistics Division Org. (102610); Criminalistics Division Program (PS05), in a Project Account to be determined. The funding agency does not require a matching funds component. The program will be managed by the Criminalistics Division Manager. Proposed expense allocations are as follows:

<b>Description and Use of Funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Criminalistics Division Staff Travel/Training	<b>\$17,706</b>
Intranet Installation	<b>\$11,410</b>
AB GeneMapper ID	<b>\$20,000</b>
Office Cubicles	<b>\$96,431</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$145,547</b>

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Safety Comte.  
September 25, 2007

## **BACKGROUND**

The 2007 DNA Forensic Casework Backlog Program was created to assist laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to improve DNA laboratory infrastructure and analysis capacity so that DNA samples can be processed efficiently and cost effectively, as well as to analyze backlogged forensic DNA casework samples from Uniform Crime Report (UCR), Part 1 Violent Crimes. These improvements are critical to preventing future DNA backlogs and to helping the criminal justice system use the full potential of DNA technology. The improvements allow staff to process DNA samples in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. Grant funds will support the purchase of DNA typing software, training for laboratory scientists, improvement of the intranet structure, and the redesign of office space to accommodate all laboratory staff.

Upon implementation of DNA typing software, coupled with improved infrastructure (intranet and cubicles), and training, the Forensic Biology Unit should be able to decrease the case turnaround time to less than 100 days. This decrease will enable staff to increase the number of case requests completed each year.

The DNA profiles obtained from probative evidence will be entered into the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS). A DNA match made by CODIS can then be matched to a named individual or to another unknown suspect case. Based upon past experience with DNA profiles obtained from suspectless cases, staff anticipates a 25% Hit-Rate.<sup>1</sup>

## **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

The advent of DNA technology has revolutionized law enforcement's ability to analyze biological evidence at a genetic level, in particular, semen evidence encountered in sexual assaults. Coinciding with this revolution in genetic analysis is the utilization of computer-based DNA databases. The DNA analysis of the biological evidence associated with unsolved sexual assault and homicide cases and subsequent searches of these DNA profiles against the Combined DNA Indexing System and against other case profiles can determine if any matches exist. The outcome of such cross-referenced searches can lead to the arrest and prosecution of violent individuals. Additionally, DNA typing may lead to the elimination of a particular individual as a crime suspect. The ability of the laboratory to conduct the DNA analyses as a routine matter, with a shorter turn-around time, will ultimately lead to solving crimes.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Hit Rate" is defined as that portion of all cases examined in which at least one suspect is identified. Multiple suspects may be identified in some portion of the cases examined. In "named" cases, investigators frequently request multiple suspects be examined.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Objective #1**

*Implement the use of expert system DNA analysis software using the Applied Biosystems GeneMapper ID*

The Laboratory will decrease the turnaround time for the completion of all case requests in which biological material is to be subjected to DNA typing. In doing so, the number of completed case requests will increase annually. Assisting in this time reduction will be the implementation of DNA Analysis Expert System (GeneMapper ID). This will allow each scientist to evaluate the DNA typing data on their own computer versus waiting for one of the three data analysis stations to become available. The Laboratory will purchase Applied Biosystems GeneMapper ID software and implement the use of GeneMapper ID in the analysis of the DNA typing results. This will greatly assist in reducing the current turn-around time of case requests.

### **Objective #2**

*Improve the infrastructure of the laboratory by up-dating the electrical, intranet, and cubicle space for a more efficient use of the space and software*

Assisting in this reduction of turn-around time and increased number of completed case requests will be the implementation of an intranet system that will support the electronic transfer of data between the DNA quantitation instrument, DNA typing instruments, and the scientists' computers used for data analysis. The installation of an intranet will require an up-date of the electrical outlets and cubicles utilized by the scientists. The combination of the laboratory intranet, electrical up-date and sufficient number of cubicles to accommodate all staff will allow the scientists to use the limited laboratory space more efficiently.

### **Objective #3**

*Maintain the ability to enter DNA profiles obtained from the biological evidence into CODIS by meeting the continuing education requirements of FBI DNA QAS, ASCLD/LAB, and the American Board of Criminalistics. During the grant period, 11 Forensic Biology Unit staff members will need to attend training and continuing education programs.*

The following are the training and continuing education programs selected to meet the educational requirements:

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Safety Comte.  
September 25, 2007

The Promega International Human Identity Conference  
The American Academy of Forensic Sciences  
CODIS Annual Conference  
California Association of Criminalists Semi-Annual Conference  
Microscopy Seminar

The training requested will improve the quality of the Criminalistics Division's work product in that analysts will be informed on the most current research and technical information available. Additionally, the training will assist the Laboratory in meeting the requirements for continuing education that are expected by the ASCLD/LAB, the FBI DNA Quality Assurance Standards and the American Board of Criminalistics.

The average number of days to complete the analytical work, second reading, reports and technical review of Forensic Biology case requests (homicides and sexual assaults) was 137 days for cases completed in the first four months of the year 2007. Upon attendance of these conferences and training events, improvement in the laboratory infrastructure, and application of the new software, it is anticipated that case completion time will improve to less than 100 days, on average, as a result of the new technologies learned and training of additional Forensic Biology Unit staff.

## **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Economic**

Whenever possible, supplies and equipment will be purchased locally.

### **Environmental**

There are no environmental issues associated with this report.

### **Social Equity**

Provisions for continuing education and supplies funded by this grant will enhance the Department's ability to analyze biological evidence in sexual assault cases in a more timely fashion.

## **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

There are no ADA or senior citizen access issues contained in this report.

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Safety Comte.  
September 25, 2007

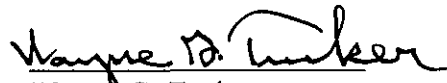
**RECOMMENDATION**

The Oakland Police Department recommends that the City Council authorize the City Administrator to accept grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$145,547 from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, 2007 Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Grant Program and appropriate said funds to the Police Department.

**ACTION REQUESTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

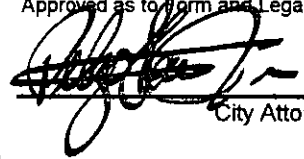
  
Wayne G. Tucker  
Chief of Police

Prepared by: Jennifer Mihalovich  
Criminalistics Division  
Bureau of Investigation  
and  
Candice Jessie  
Budget and Grants Administrator  
Bureau of Administration

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO  
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

  
Office of the City Administrator

Item: \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Safety Comte.  
September 25, 2007

  
City Attorney

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

2007 SEP 13 PM 3:58

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND, TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$145,547) FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE (USDOJ/NIJ) FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2007 FORENSIC CASEWORK DNA BACKLOG REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$145,547 shall be awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice to support the Police Department's 2007 Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program was created to assist laboratories in reducing the number of cases in their backlog in which DNA analyses may be conducted on biological evidence; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant term for the proposed initiative is October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council previously authorized acceptance of similar grant funds by Resolution No. 80129 C.M.S., dated September 19, 2006, Resolution No. 79534 C.M.S., dated October 18, 2005, and Resolution No. 78909 C.M.S., dated November 16, 2004; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or her designee to accept grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$145,547 from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice and to increase revenues and appropriate said budget to the Police Department; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That said grant funds shall be maintained in the Federal Grant Fund: 2112; Criminalistics Division Org.: 102610; Criminalistics Division Program PS05; in a Project Number to be established; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized to complete all required negotiations, certifications, assurances and documentation required to accept, modify, extend and/or amend the grant award.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
LaTonda Simmons  
City Clerk and Clerk of the  
Council of the City of Oakland, California