

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2005 NOV 29 PM 2:02

To: Office of the City Administrator
Attn: Deborah Edgerly
From: Police Department
Date: December 13, 2005

Re: **A Report and Proposed Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to Accept and Appropriate Grant Funds in an Amount Not to Exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) from the State of California, Office of Emergency Services, Serving as the Fiscal Agent for Project Safe Neighborhoods as Administered Through the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California, for the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the Period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006, in Support of the Oakland Police Department Criminalistics Division and Special Operations Group**

SUMMARY

A resolution has been prepared authorizing the City Administrator, on behalf of the City of Oakland, to accept and appropriate grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 from the State of California, Office of Emergency Services, serving as the fiscal agent for Project Safe Neighborhoods as administered through the Office of the U.S. Attorney, Northern District of California, for the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The funds will be used in direct support of the Police Department's Criminalistics Division, Firearms Unit, and Special Operations Group, Gun Violence Reduction Plan. The proposed program period is October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT

It is anticipated that the Department will receive grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 from the State of California. The funds will be provided in direct support of the Criminalistics Division's Firearms Unit, and the Special Operations Group's Gun Violence Reduction Plan. Revenues and appropriations for the Firearms Unit program will be allocated in the State of California, Office of Emergency Services Grant Fund: 2999; Criminalistics Division Org.: 102610; Criminalistics Division Program: PS05, in a Project Account to be determined. Revenues and appropriations for the Gun Violence Reduction Program will be allocated in State of California, Office of Emergency Services Grant Fund: 2999; Special Operations Group Org.: 101140; Special Operations Division Program: PS12, in a Project Account to be determined. There is no matching fund requirement. Funds will be allocated as follows:

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Description and Use of Funds	Amount
FIREARMS UNIT	
Optical Imaging Enhancements, Boroscopes, Microscopes, and other Firearms Unit Equipment	\$43,600
Workstation and Examination Area Improvements	\$40,000
Travel and Training	\$11,400
Subtotal:	\$95,000
GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAM	
Police Officer Overtime (Multiple Enforcement Operations)	\$66,228
Surveillance and Other Program Equipment	\$38,772
Subtotal:	\$105,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$200,000

Based on a 17.77% calculation rate, Central Services Overhead (CSO) associated with the \$66,228 for salaries and wages equals \$11,768. CSO charges will be expensed to General Fund 1010, Special Operations Group Org. Code: 101140, Special Operations Division Program PS12.

BACKGROUND

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationwide network designed to create safer neighborhoods by reducing gun violence and gun crime by implementing programs that sustain the reductions. The program’s effectiveness is based on the cooperation of local, state, and federal agencies as a unified approach led by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in each of the nation’s 94 county federal judicial districts. Each U.S. Attorney’s Office is responsible for establishing a

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collaborative PSN task force of federal, state and local law enforcement, and other community members to implement PSN initiatives within its district.

In 2002, the PSN Task Force for the Northern District of California was formed. The Task Force subsequently identified five (5) target communities in which to focus strategic planning and accountability components in relationship to the U.S. Department of Justice's PSN initiative. The target communities are:

- Oakland
- Richmond
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Salinas

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Criminalistics Division: Firearms Unit

The Firearms Unit is an integral part of the Police Department's Criminalistics Division, assuming a significant role in assisting with intelligence gathering and prosecution of firearm related crimes. Firearms evidence is examined and entered into the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) evidence database and the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN).

Since its inception in 1995, the use of NIBIN by the Criminalistics Division has resulted in 195 "hits", or linkages to crimes perpetrated in Oakland to other crimes cited nationally. During 2004, 400 requests for firearm-related examinations were completed by the Firearms Unit. Further, over 300 seized firearms were examined, test fired, and entered into the NIBIN database. Of the 400 NIBIN service requests, 75 "hits" were established, resulting in a 23% "hit rate". On average, more than 1,000 firearms are seized each year. If given the opportunity to examine these weapons, and considering an average NIBIN "hit rate" of 15%, the Department can potentially achieve 15 to 23 additional investigative firearm related links each year.

Use of Grant Program Funds

Due to minimal staffing, the Firearms Unit is unable to perform all firearm-related examinations. Barring an increase in authorized staff levels, higher case throughput can only be attained through higher output per examiner.

The use of Project Safe Neighborhoods grant funds will address this matter by affording Laboratory staff increased case throughput in:

- **Training** : Enhancing the knowledge, skills and abilities of examiners
- **Technology**: Enhancing capabilities to examine and document evidence
- **Efficiency**: Enhancing the ergonomic/physical plant used by the examiners

Special Operations Group: Gun Violence Reduction Plan

The City of Oakland confronts an extremely serious and, at times, seemingly intractable violent crime problem with static or diminishing law enforcement and social welfare resources, along with weak prospects for significantly expanding these resources in the foreseeable future. The seriousness of the violent crime problem and severe constraints on public resources at all levels demands the creation of new approaches to achieving significant reductions in violent crime, particularly violent crimes that involve the use of firearms.

In 2003, the Oakland Police Department implemented a comprehensive Violence Reduction Plan (VRP) with the goal of reducing homicides in the City. The plan involves the use of focused and targeted enforcement and relies heavily upon partnerships established with the California Department of Corrections - State Parole Division, the Alameda County Probation Department, and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. Since inception of the VRP, homicides in the City overall have been reduced, with the exception of the homicide rate in Police Service Area 5 (PSA 5)¹. In 2005, homicides in this geographic area of Oakland increased 140% compared to the previous year. This area of Oakland is a mixture of residential and business districts. PSA 5 has a large number of entrenched, open-air drug markets that contribute significantly to homicides and firearm assaults in the area.

Because of the clear nexus between street-level narcotics activity, gun violence and homicides in the City of Oakland, it is essential that efforts to reduce homicides and violent crime focus on reducing the number of open-air drug markets in Oakland. The Police Department has attempted to address this problem since the mid 1980's using a variety of enforcement techniques, with some isolated success stories, but minimal impact overall.

¹ Boundaries of PSA5 are Redding Street/north, 82nd Avenue/east, International Boulevard/south, and High Street/west.

Use of Grant Program Funds

The Department's Special Operations Group will use PSN grant funds in direct support of the agency's Violence Reduction Plan through increased enforcement operations focused on homicides and firearm assaults. Overall program success will be measured using Uniform Crime Data and informal neighborhood surveys conducted at the conclusion of each targeted enforcement operation. Subsequent follow-up surveys will be conducted to determine the long-term effectiveness of operations.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic

Supplies and equipment used for the projects will, whenever possible, be purchased locally.

Environmental

There are no environmental opportunities identified in this report.

Social Equity

Services provided will assist the community through improved police services.

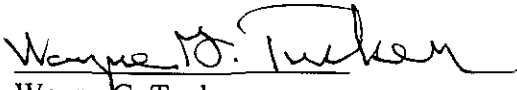
DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Oakland Police Department recommends that the City Council approve the proposed resolution authorizing the City Administrator to accept grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 from the State of California, Office of Emergency Services, and appropriate said funds to the Police Department.

Respectfully submitted,


Wayne G. Tucker
Chief of Police

Prepared by: Lansing Lee
Criminalistics Division
Bureau of Investigations,
Lieutenant Peter Sarna
Special Operations Division
Bureau of Field Operations, and
Candice Jessie
Fiscal Services Division
Bureau of Administration

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:


Office of the City Administrator

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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Ravi Giron
City Attorney

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

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Introduced by Councilmember _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000) FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, SERVING AS THE FISCAL AGENT FOR PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS AS ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE, IN SUPPORT OF THE OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIMINALISTICS DIVISION AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that grant funds in an amount not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) will be received from the State of California, Office of Emergency Services, in support of the Oakland Police Department Criminalistics Division and Special Operations Group; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that up to \$95,000 of said funds shall be designated for the Criminalistics Division, Firearms Unit, and up to \$105,000 shall be designated for the Special Operations Group, Gun Violence Reduction Plan; and

WHEREAS, these State of California, Project Safe Neighborhoods grant funds are to be used to expand law enforcement efforts to address gun violence through comprehensive programs in the City of Oakland; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or her designee to accept up to \$200,000 in grant funds from the State of California, Office of Emergency Services and appropriate said funds to the Police Department; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the funds for the Oakland Police Department, Criminalistics Laboratory, Firearms Unit shall be maintained in the State of California, Office of Emergency Services Grant Fund: 2999; Criminalistics Division Org.: 102610; Criminalistics Division Program: PS05, in a Project Number to be established; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the funds for the Oakland Police Department, Special Operations Group, Gun Violence Reduction Program shall be maintained in the State of California, Office of Emergency Services Grant Fund: 2999; Special Operations Division Org.: 101140; Special Operations Division Program: PS12, in a Project Number to be established; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Administrator or her designee is 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