



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 1, 2009

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT AWARD FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR THE "SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM"

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2009

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT- SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION, TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU

PRESENTATION BY: Sergeant Rob Sharpnack, Police Department, Traffic Safety Bureau

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Sharpnack 714-754-4963

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Adopt Resolution which authorizes the City Manager or his designee, to accept the Grant award from the California Office of Traffic Safety for the "Selective Traffic Enforcement Program" (S.T.E.P.).
2. Approve Budget Adjustment # 10-005.

BACKGROUND:

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration distributes federal funding to California through the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency and the Office of Traffic Safety. Grants are used to mitigate traffic safety program deficiencies, expand on-going programs, or to develop a new program. Grant funding cannot replace existing program expenditures, nor can traffic safety funds be used for program maintenance, research, rehabilitation, or construction. The City has applied for several of these grants in the past and has received funds that have significantly assisted the objectives of the Traffic Safety Bureau and improved traffic safety in the City of Costa Mesa.

ANALYSIS:

Since 2005, the Office of Traffic Safety has awarded the Police Department three significant DUI related grants. The funds associated with these grants have been used to purchase specialized equipment and to pay the cost of personnel working strategic objectives.

As a result of grant funded operations, the Police Department has successfully reduced key collision related data points. For example, since 2005, the total number of injuries related to traffic collisions was reduced 28%, from 899 to 648. The number of injuries related to DUI traffic collisions was reduced 35%, from 105 to 68. The number of hit and run injury collisions was reduced 12%, from 51 to 45. Lastly, the number of injury collisions occurring during nighttime hours (9PM to 3AM) was reduced 17%, from 102 to 85. Recently, the Office of Traffic Safety referred to the Police Department as a “model agency” for effective use and oversight of traffic safety grant funds. In addition to the increased level of safety on City roadways, traffic grants have helped the Police Department develop valuable partnerships with neighboring law enforcement and other state and county agencies.

Each year, the Office of Traffic Safety assembles collision data rankings based on city population numbers. Costa Mesa is a member of Group B (population 100,001 to 250,000) with 49 other cities. According to the 2007 rankings, Costa Mesa struggled with alcohol, speed, and bicycle related collisions. The City ranked first for alcohol related collisions involving drivers under the age of 21 and second for alcohol related collisions involving adults. This was despite the fact that the Police Department arrested more impaired drivers (952) than any other city in Group B. Costa Mesa also ranked second for speed related collisions and bicycle involved collisions.

Along with injury collisions, impaired driving enforcement has always been a top priority for the Police Department. Since 1986, the Department has staffed a full-time impaired driving enforcement team consisting of two officers. As a supplement to the impaired driving enforcement team, the Department regularly conducts grant funded sobriety checkpoints and mini-saturation patrols. The checkpoints have also been used to randomly screen drivers for valid driver licenses. In 2008, approximately 2,967 citations were issued to suspended and unlicensed drivers in Costa Mesa.

Police Department staff submitted an application and has received approval for the new grant which is offered through the California Office of Traffic Safety. The grant will allow the Police Department to implement the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (S.T.E.P). This program will provide a more comprehensive approach to reducing the violations which commonly lead to collisions, while maintaining a focus on impaired and suspended/unlicensed drivers. Grant funds will be used to staff Impaired Driver/Driver License checkpoints and to staff targeted enforcement shifts. In addition, funds will also be used to purchase equipment such as the Sokkia Total Station (a survey device used to record data points and construct factual diagrams for major collision scenes), two Stealth Stat speed analysis devices (boxes which are covertly deployed to collect accurate vehicle speed/volume data for a given location), and two Preliminary Alcohol Screening flashlights (flashlights which detect the presence of alcohol from a person or in a confined space).

This past year, the Office of Traffic Safety reduced the term for traffic safety grants to a period of one year. The Police Department’s current grant expires on September 30, 2009. The new S.T.E.P. grant would enable the Police Department to build upon the success achieved to date, while providing new objectives for increasing traffic safety throughout the City. New grant objectives include special enforcement of red light violations, excessive speed violations, motorcycle safety enforcement, seatbelt enforcement, and enforcement at high collision intersections.

Some of the specific project objectives from the grant agreement are as follows:

- To conduct Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (S.F.S.T.) training for at least five (5) officers by March 31, 2010.
- To conduct twelve (12) DUI/DL checkpoints by September 30, 2010.
- To conduct fifteen (15) DUI saturation patrols by September 30, 2010.
- To conduct fourteen (14) special enforcement operations targeting red light violations by September 30, 2010.
- To conduct thirteen (13) special enforcement operations at or near intersections with a disproportionate number of traffic collisions by September 30, 2010.
- To conduct fourteen (14) special enforcement operations targeting drivers exhibiting excessive speed by September 30, 2010.
- To conduct four (4) highly publicized special motorcycle safety enforcement operations in areas or during events with a high number of motorcycle incidents or collisions resulting from unsafe speed, DUI, following too closely, unsafe lane changes, improper turning and other primary collision factor violations by motorcyclists and other drivers by September 30, 2010.
- To increase total Department-wide seatbelt citations as a percent of total hazardous or moving citations issued by 1 percentage point from 23% to 24% by September 30, 2010.
- To develop a "Hot Sheet" program to notify Patrol and Traffic Safety Bureau officers to be on the lookout for identified repeat DUI offenders with suspended or revoked licenses as a result of DUI convictions by December 31, 2009. Updated Hot Sheets will be distributed to Patrol and Traffic Safety Bureau officers every three to four weeks.
- To conduct four (4) "Court Sting" operations to cite individuals driving from court after having their license suspended or revoked by September 30, 2010.
- To increase the total Department-wide number of vehicles impounded by 5% from 1,505 to 1,580 by September 30, 2010.
- To increase the Department's enforcement index 5 points from 27 to 32 by September 30, 2010.

To receive the grant funds, the Office of Traffic Safety requires the City Council adopt a Resolution agreeing to support the grant goals in their entirety. Office of Traffic Safety grant funding is based on the federal fiscal year, which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. The grant agreement provides funds in the amount of \$300,000 which will be utilized over a 12-month period of time (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010).

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

None

FISCAL REVIEW:

The attached budget adjustment # 10-005 appropriates the total expected grant of \$300,000 to the Police Department's budget. The grant period is from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the Grant Agreement and associated documents and has approved it as to form and content.

CONCLUSION:

Based upon an analysis of the Grant Agreement and the available benefits to the City offered by the award of the grant, Department staff supports the approval of the above listed recommendation.

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Traffic Safety Bureau

CHRISTOPHER SHAWKEY
Chief of Police

MARC R. PUCKETT
Director of Finance

KIMBERLY HALL BARLOW
City Attorney

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager
City Attorney
Finance Director
City Clerk
Grant
Administrator

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Resolution of the City Council](#)
2 [Budget Adjustment # 10-005](#)
3 [Office of Traffic Safety Grant Agreement](#)