



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 1, 2013

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR THE "SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM" AND "SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT GRANT PROGRAM"

DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT- FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION
SPECIAL SERVICES BUREAU (TRAFFIC SAFETY)

PRESENTATION BY: Sergeant Bryan Wadkins, Special Police Services

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sergeant Bryan Wadkins (714) 754-5125

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Adopt Resolution which authorizes the CEO or his designee to accept the grant awards from the California Office of Traffic Safety for: the "Selective Traffic Enforcement Program" (STEP); and the "Sobriety Checkpoint Grant Program."
2. Approve Budget Adjustment # 14-007 for the total amount of \$168,923 to increase revenue and appropriation for overtime, professional development and equipment costs associated with the 2013 OTS STEP grant (\$74,523) and OTS Sobriety Checkpoint Grant Program (\$94,400).

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 Police Department has been awarded several of these grants in the past and these funds have significantly assisted the objectives of the Traffic Safety Bureau and improved traffic safety for residents and visitors in the City of Costa Mesa.

ANALYSIS:

Since 2005, the Office of Traffic Safety has awarded the Costa Mesa Police Department seven (7) 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 operations.

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 injury traffic collisions was reduced by 13%, from 679 in 2005 to 588 in 2012. The number of injuries related to these traffic collisions declined by 13%, equating to 120 fewer people suffering injuries in 2012. The number of persons injured in DUI related collisions was reduced by 24%, from 111 in 2005, to 84 in 2012.

The Office of Traffic Safety assembles collision data rankings based on city population numbers. Costa Mesa is ranked with 52 other cities with a population of 100,001-250,000. In relation to other cities in our group, Costa Mesa has the 4th most DUI collisions, 2nd most pedestrian collisions, 3rd most bicycle collisions, and 7th most fatal/injury collisions as compared to the other 53 cities in our population group. Based upon these 2010 statistical rankings, OTS ranked Costa Mesa as the 2nd worst City for over-all traffic safety, when compared to other cities in our population group.

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 Sobriety/Driver's License Checkpoints and DUI saturation patrols funded by OTS grants. The checkpoints are educational, highly visible, and provide a deterrent against impaired driving. Our commitment to DUI enforcement is evident in OTS data rankings. In the study, Costa Mesa had the best ranking for DUI arrests (873) in 2010 out of 53 other cities in our population group.

Based upon the recent fiscal downturn, overall Police Department staffing has been impacted. The number of officers specifically assigned to traffic enforcement and collision investigations has been reduced from ten (10) in 2009 to eight (8) currently. These grants allow for us to intermittently bolster staffing, assisting with the loss in full time personnel.

Police Department staff submitted applications for and has received tentative approval for both 2014 grants offered through the California Office of Traffic Safety. The grants will allow the Police Department to implement the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) and the Sobriety Checkpoint Grant Program. Collectively, these programs will provide a comprehensive approach to reducing violations which commonly lead to collisions, while maintaining a focus on impaired and suspended/unlicensed drivers. Grant funds will be used to staff Sobriety/Driver License Checkpoints and to staff targeted enforcement operations. In addition, funds will be used to support additional law enforcement training related to traffic investigation and enforcement activities. The implementation of this training, along with both the STEP and Sobriety Checkpoint Grant Program, will help achieve the overarching goal of reducing injury collisions, saving lives and reducing liability.

The Police Department's current grant expires on September 30, 2013. Both above listed grants will enable the Police Department to build upon successes achieved to date, while providing new objectives for increasing traffic safety throughout the City. The funding will allow the Police Department additional resources to combat impaired driving, and enforce traffic laws aimed at saving lives. Objectives for both OTS grants include DUI saturation patrols; traffic enforcement operations targeting red light, excessive speed, and distracted driving violations; motorcycle safety enforcement; enforcement at high collision intersections; and Sobriety/Driver License checkpoints.

Some specific project objectives from both grant agreements include:

- To conduct ten (10) DUI/DL checkpoints.
- To conduct fifteen (15) DUI saturation patrols.
- To conduct ten (10) special traffic enforcement operations targeting red light, excessive speed and other violations at or near intersections with a disproportionate number of traffic collisions..
- To conduct four (4) special enforcement operations targeting distracted driving violations.
- To conduct two (2) highly publicized special motorcycle safety enforcement operations in an area or during an event 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.

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 total funds in the amount of \$169,558 which will be utilized over a 12-month period of time, from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

None

FISCAL REVIEW:

The attached budget adjustment # 14-007 increases revenue and appropriates the total expected grant funds of \$169,558 to the Police Department's budget for overtime, professional development and other direct costs. The grant period is from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014.

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.

BRYAN WADKINS
Traffic Sergeant
Police Special Services Bureau

TOM GAZSI
Chief of Police

STEPHEN DUNIVENT
Interim Finance Director

THOMAS DUARTE
City Attorney

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

ATTACHMENTS: 1 [Resolution of the City Council](#)
2 [Budget Adjustment # 14-007](#)
3 Office of Traffic Safety Grant Agreement
a - [S.T.E.P. Grant Agreement](#)
b - [Sobriety Checkpoint Grant Program](#)