



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2017

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST FOR THE 2017 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM - SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000

ISSUE:

Approve the submission of an online grant application in the amount of \$250,000 to the National Institute of Justice, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, for the competitive funding that is available through the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to submit the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement online grant application, accept the assurances and certifications, and make non-substantive changes in documents associated with the application; and
2. Upon grant award, authorize an increase in estimated revenues in the amount of \$250,000 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount in a project account to be established by Finance for the National Institute of Justice Paul Coverdell grant program

BACKGROUND:

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement grant provides funds to local governments to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. The funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence.

The Riverside Police Department (RPD) applied for this grant in 2010 and was awarded the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement grant in the amount of \$94,750. Those funds were used to purchase equipment that assisted the Evidence Forensic Unit in reducing the backlog of scanning 35mm film processing, upgraded the Digital Imaging system, and enabled in-house fingerprint analysis. Computer forensic equipment purchased with the previous funding allowed for analysis of digital media such as cell phones, portable data devices and USB flash drives. In addition, the past grant provided funds for education, training and certification activities.

DISCUSSION:

RPD continues to develop and improve technologies and automated systems to assist law enforcement in investigating, responding to and preventing crime. This grant application proposes the purchase of a network storage system and a radio frequency isolation box to prevent devices from being remotely erased prior to examination.

The funding would enhance the RPD Forensic Unit's ability to diminish the current backlog and increase the quality and efficiency of data sharing between forensic computer workstations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The program costs associated with the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement program are fully funded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. There are no matching funds required.

Prepared by: Sergio G. Diaz, Chief of Police
Certified as to
availability of funds: Scott G. Miller, PhD, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney