



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



October 20, 2019

File ID: 20-0419

TITLE

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACCEPTING \$50,199 FROM THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FOR THE 2020 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council conduct the public hearing and adopt the resolution.

SUMMARY

The Police Department has received notice of the 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant award in the amount of \$50,199 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. These funds were allocated to the Police Department based on city population and Part 1 violent crime statistics.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act State Guidelines; therefore, pursuant to State Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3) no environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable

DISCUSSION

Proposed to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their local needs and conditions. Federal funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program must be used to supplement existing funds for program activities and cannot replace, or supplant, nonfederal funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. The unit of local government must provide assurance that the application or any future amendment was made and an opportunity to comment was provided to citizens and the neighborhood or community organizations of applicable law. Local match is not required with the JAG Program.

The Police Department received notice on September 19, 2020 of an Edward Byrne Memorial JAG award in the amount of \$50,199 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. These funds were allocated to the Police Department based on city population and Part 1 violent crime statistics. Part 1 violent crimes include murder and non-negligent manslaughters, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assaults as reported by the FBI. Acceptance and appropriation of these funds requires a public hearing per stipulations of the Justice Assistance Grant.

The Police Department recommends using the JAG funds for the personnel costs of a Police Community Relations Specialist. The Community Relations Unit was disbanded in the Police Department during previous budget cuts. The Police Community Relations Specialist was reinstated through 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds, covering a two-year period of July 2009 to June 2011. When ARRA funds were depleted, JAG funds were used to retain this position. The Police Department is recommending continuation of using JAG funds for Police Community Relations Specialist personnel costs during fiscal year 2020/2021.

The Police Community Relations Specialist provides a vital link between the community and the Police Department by attending community meetings, coordinating events which involve the community, providing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design assessments for homeowners and businesses, coordinating the annual Citizens Police Academy and the Teen Police Academy, and responds to general inquiries and questions to the Police Department. This position plays an invaluable role serving as the Department's community liaison.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the real property holdings of the City Council members do not create a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this resolution will result in the acceptance of \$50,199 for the 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The annual personnel cost of the Police Community Relations Specialist is approximately \$97,336. Funds received by JAG will partially offset the annual personnel costs. The remaining costs will be covered by the General Fund, which has already been included in the fiscal year 2020/2021 adopted budget. There are no further budget appropriations by accepting the 2020 JAG funds.

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

Since Justice Assistance Grant funds are awarded on an annual basis, the Police Department will seek Council approval via public hearing of the spending plan of subsequent grant awards. The spending plan will include the fiscal impact of accepting the grant funds.

ATTACHMENTS

None

Staff Contact: Beverly Sturk, Police Department