



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



August 4, 2020

File ID: 20-0297

## **TITLE**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACCEPTING \$55,118 FROM THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Council adopt the resolution.

## **SUMMARY**

The Police Department has been awarded grant funding from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program. The goal of this program is to improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services over current operations.

## **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**

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Program, which is administered by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), provides federal funding to accredited crime laboratories throughout California. Coverdell funds can be used to provide education and training in both technical and personal skills to California's forensic scientists to ensure that they can effectively perform their laboratory assignments. In order to receive these funds, the crime laboratories must verify their accreditation status with a Forensic Crime laboratory organization or appropriate certifying body. The crime laboratories must also certify that they have a plan in place to conduct an independent external investigation into allegations of serious negligence or misconduct by laboratory employees or contractors.

The Police Department has been awarded \$55,118 for the 2019 Coverdell Program. This funding will be used to design and implement laboratory quality assurance compliance software to track and monitor quality management program documents. This will ensure the laboratory meets all accreditation standards and requirements on a routine basis and allows for easy access to quality system documents for staff, attorneys, and the public via records requests. As the Police Department strives to provide the highest quality and scientifically vetted service to constituents, this program will ensure all laboratory members are aware of, and accountable to, the most recent and applicable standards.

#### **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 \$55,118 grant funding from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program. This grant has already been included in the FY 2020/2021 adopted budget of the Federal Grants Fund. Therefore, no further appropriations are necessary, resulting in no net fiscal impact.

#### **ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no ongoing fiscal impact for accepting these grant funds.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

*Staff Contact: Beverly Sturk, Police Department*

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