

AGENDA



Thursday, May 3, 2007

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 10**

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing the application for renewal funding from the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority in the amount of \$442,211 in grant funds for the continuation of the Auto Theft Interdiction Project in the Austin Police Department.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority for the grant period September 1, 2007 - August 31, 2008. An in-kind match is required. Funding for the continued operation of this program is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

For More Information: Cathy Ellison

Prior Council Action: Council action to accept ATIP supplemental funding in March 2007.

This action authorizes the City to apply for \$422,211 in grant renewal funding from the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA), to continue the Auto Theft Interdiction Project within the Austin Police Department. Funding for this grant program is generated by the \$1.00 per motor vehicle fee paid each year by residents as they purchase car insurance.

The grant application continues funding for two full-time equivalent civilian positions (2 civilian FTEs) and three full-time detective positions (3 sworn FTEs). The grant also funds overtime costs for auto theft crime analysis and part of the operating costs associated with the program. If awarded, \$30,000 of the grant funds will be used to purchase a license plate scanning device. The device equipment is capable of scanning up to 600 license plates per hour, checking them against the database of stolen vehicles, and alerting detectives to the location of such vehicle for recovery purposes.

An in-kind match and is required and will be included in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department. The in-kind match includes General Fund salaries and fringe costs associated with three detectives, and 50% of the Sergeant and Lieutenant salaries in the Auto Theft Interdiction Unit, sworn overtime for special operations; and program operating costs.

The goal of the Auto Theft Interdiction Project is to reduce the incidence of auto thefts in the City of Austin. Several strategies are employed to meet this goal including investigation, enforcement, prevention, education and prosecution.