

AGENDA



Thursday, June 7, 2007

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 18**

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing renewal grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act in the amount of \$71,771 for two Victim Counselors for the Austin Police Department project entitled Assistance to Female Victims of Domestic Violence.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$71,771 is available in grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act, for the grant period September 1, 2007 - August 31, 2008. The required cash match of \$38,646 is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Cathy Ellison/Acting Chief of Police, 974-5030

Prior Council Action: Grant acceptance on June 27, 2006.

This action authorizes the City to apply for and accept \$71,771 in fifth year grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for the Austin Police Department to provide assistance to female victims of domestic violence and stalking. The grant period will run from September 1, 2007 – August 31, 2008.

A cash match of \$38,646 is required and will be met by continuing the existing salary funding and additional personnel costs for two grant-funded Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Victim Counselors to be proposed in the FY 2007-2008 Operating Budget for the Austin Police Department, Victim Services Program. Funding for the continued operation of this program is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

The grant funds two FTE Victim Counselors to provide counseling, service referrals, and assistance to more than 1,000 victims through the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Protection Team. The counselors work in coordination with other Team members to reduce victim trauma. The Team is a collaboration of agencies including Family Violence Detectives and Victim Services Counselors in the Austin Police Department, the Travis County Sheriff's Office, the Travis County District Attorney's Office, the Women's Advocacy Project, Texas RioGrande Legal Aide, the Travis County Attorney's Office, and SafePlace.