

AGENDA



Thursday, June 7, 2007

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 21**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$71,000 in grant funds from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, State Criminal Justice Planning Program; and amend the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Police Department Operating Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20060911-001 to appropriate \$71,000 for training, equipment, and contractual services for the Police Department Child Exploitation Project.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, State Criminal Justice Planning Program for the grant period September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008. This is the first year of a 5-year grant project. There is no required match.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

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

The goal of this grant program is to prevent the exploitation of Austin's children through education and targeted enforcement. The Austin Police Department Child Exploitation Project will increase awareness of child exploitation issues through education, decrease instances of child exploitation through undercover stings, and reduce victim trauma.

This Project will also increase the knowledge of project staff and volunteers who investigate exploitation cases and conduct public presentations. Presentation attendees will learn how children are exploited on the Internet (and through other technologies); how child exploitation may be prevented; ways to intercede on behalf of a child; how to report child exploitation; and the steps that need to be taken to assist victims and their families.

The \$71,000 in grant funding will provide for the following: training for project staff in the amount of \$12,350 and presentation and education equipment in the amount of \$58,650. This grant addresses the Police Department's goal of reducing crime, fear of crime, and improving the quality of life of Austin's residents.