

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Police RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 22

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$40,200 in grant funds from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Grant Program; and amending the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20060911-001 to appropriate \$40,200 for the operation of the Police Department Gang Prevention Project.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Grant Program for the grant period September 1, 2007 - 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 the grant program is to prevent gang-related criminal activity through education. The APD Gang Prevention Project staff will train and mentor juveniles (under 17) to increase their awareness of gang-related issues, to explore positive alternatives to gang membership, to intervene and serve as positive role models, and to prevent youth from engaging in criminal behavior and entering the juvenile and/or criminal justice system. The project will also provide training for parents, guardians, professionals, and in-agency personnel.

The \$40,200 in grant funding will provide for the following: training on gang-related issues for staff in the amount of \$16,200; curriculum development and printing services in the amount of \$15,100; and presentation equipment in the amount of \$8,900.

This grant addresses the Department goal of reducing crime, fear of crime, and improving the quality of life of Austin's residents.