

AGENDA



Thursday, June 21, 2007

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 29**

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing the application for \$71,000 in grant funds from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, State Criminal Justice Planning Program 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 not required.

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

Prior Council Action: Approved Budget Amendment Ordinance 20070607-021 on June 7, 2007.

Budget Amendment Ordinance Number 20070607-021 was approved by Council on June 7, 2007 regarding this grant. In addition to that Ordinance, the Grantor requires a Resolution certifying that the City is committed to providing for any applicable matching funds; the City has designated an authorized official to negotiate on its behalf; and the City will return funds to the Grantor in the event of a loss or misuse of grant funds. Therefore, this resolution is being brought forward for Council approval in order to complete the grant application process.

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.