

AGENDA



Thursday, October 18, 2007

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 14**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing the application and acceptance of of \$224,632 in renewal grant funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance "Law Enforcement Response to Human Trafficking" grant program; and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20070910-003 to appropriate \$224,632 for the Austin/Travis County Human Trafficking Task Force.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Bureau of Justice. An in-kind match of \$272,390 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 operating budget of the Austin Police Department. Related to item #13.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Art Acevedo, Chief of Police/974-5030

Prior Council Action: September 30, 2004 Council acceptance.

"Human Trafficking" means deceiving or coercing people under threat of harm, usually for the purpose of compelling individuals to engage in forced labor or sexual exploitation. Human Trafficking must not be confused with human smuggling; which is when an individual voluntarily seeking out a smuggler, pays a fee in exchange for transport to a destination, and is free to do as one wishes upon reaching his destination.

This continuation grant funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) will support the Austin/Travis County Human Trafficking Task Force by providing training opportunities and resources. This grant will allow the local law enforcement agencies to conduct operations to gather investigative leads that will result in the successful prosecution of traffickers.

The supplement will continue the grant through August 31, 2009. Grant funds will be used to continue to provide investigative overtime, increase the law enforcement liaison position to 30 hours per week, and supplies and training materials for the Austin/Travis County Human Trafficking Task Force. This BJA Fiscal Year 2007-2008 solicited award was not anticipated to be funded during the regular budget process and has been awarded as a supplement to an existing grant that had been scheduled to end November 30, 2007.