

AGENDA



Thursday, November 1, 2007

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 8**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$990,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice; and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Police Department Operating Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20070910-003 to appropriate \$990,000 for the Austin Police Department Violent Crime Initiative. This Bureau of Justice grant is awarded under the Fiscal Year 2007 Byrne Discretionary funding.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Bureau of Justice. A match is not required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

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

This grant funding will support the Austin Police Department (APD) Violent Crime Initiative by funding operations in crime hotspot areas, providing equipment for the SWAT unit, and expanding the capabilities of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

The grant period is from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. APD's Forensics Center currently maintains the laboratory's local Automated Palm and Fingerprint Identification System (APFIS), as well as the federal and state systems. This grant proposal includes funding to expand the APFIS by distributing blue check devices to Austin Police Department patrol officers in the field. The blue check devices will allow the officers to capture a finger image from a subject that can then be transferred from the field to the host server. A search of the APFIS database would be conducted with the results immediately returned to the hand held device, and this would provide proper identification of the subject. This pilot project will greatly enhance APD's capabilities to identify violent offenders.