Thursday, December 6, 2007

Police RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 24

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing the application for \$93,000 in grant funds from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division for the operation of the Austin Police Department Coverdell Program.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division for the grant period January 1 - July 31, 2007. There is no required match.

Prior Council Action: Approved Budget Amendment Ordinance 20070419-007 on April 30, 2007.

Budget Amendment Ordinance Number 20070419-007 was approved by Council on April 30, 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 \$93,000 in grant funding will provide for the following: \$15,337 in APD Forensic Division overtime funds to reduce latent print, ballistics and crime scene case backlogs; \$55,200 for equipment, including computers, wireless barcode readers, and an intoxilyzer; and, \$19,245 for supplies and direct Forensic Division operating expenses.

This grant addresses the Department goals of reducing the violent crime rate and the property crime rate. It also addresses the following APD Activity Objective: The purpose of the Forensics activity is to provide timely and accurate forensic science and operational support to APD, local law enforcement and judicial agencies so they can successfully resolve investigations.