

AGENDA



Thursday, February 28, 2008

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 19**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$28,963 from the Downtown Austin Alliance; and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20070910-003 to appropriate \$28,963 in funding for a total grant amount of \$428,963 for the Downtown Ranger Program, and to add one full-time equivalent position for a total of nine (9) authorized full-time equivalent grant positions for the Downtown Ranger Program.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Downtown Austin Alliance for this additional full-time equivalent position.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Al Eells, Assistant Chief/974-5030

The Downtown Ranger Program has been an effective tool in addressing public order issues and making the downtown area safer for citizens and visitors. Downtown Rangers are civilian employees that assist in walking and bicycle patrol. The Austin Police Department (APD) Downtown Area Command manages the Ranger Program. This Council action increases the staffing for the Ranger's program by one full-time equivalent (FTE) position and it does not result in a decrease in other Downtown Area Alliance funded programs.

Funding for this FTE position will cover salary, fringe benefits and all related equipment such as a police bicycle and radio. The Downtown Ranger Program has been successful in providing part-time job opportunities to future APD cadets awaiting the APD Training Academy. This aspect of the program strengthens APD's recruitment efforts.