

AGENDA



Thursday, May 8, 2008

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 22**

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing the application for \$59,654 in grant funds from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, State Criminal Justice Planning Program for one existing full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Services Counselor for the Austin Police Department Victim Services Division Major Crimes Support Program.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, State Criminal Justice Planning Program (Fund 421) for the grant period September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009. 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: APD Chief of Staff David Carter/974-5030

Prior Council Action: None

This action approves a resolution authorizing the City to apply for \$59,654 in grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, State Criminal Justice Planning Program (Fund 421) for one existing full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Services Counselor for the Austin Police Department project entitled "Improving the Criminal Justice System, Major Crimes Support."

The goal of the grant program is to increase counseling, referral and follow-up services to adult and child primary and secondary crime victims who have witnessed or experienced family, school or community violence. The grant period runs from September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009.

The grant program goals will be achieved by addressing the APD Victim Services Program goals of improving the quality of life for Austin residents through responding to the psychological and emotional needs of victims, families and neighbors who have experienced crime and/or trauma so that they can more quickly and completely recover from the effects of victimization.

As a designated victim liaison with the APD, the counselor will provide crisis and mandated services to address the needs of crime victims throughout the criminal investigation process. Addressing the needs for victims assists in their recovery from trauma and improves their experience with the criminal justice process. Victim Services strives to serve as many primary and secondary victims as possible.