

AGENDA



Thursday, May 8, 2008

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 25**

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing the application for renewal grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act in the amount of \$98,828 for two existing full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Counselors for a comprehensive Major Crimes Investigations Support victim services program.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the grant period of July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act. The required 20% match for July-September 2008 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department Victim Services Program and the remaining match will be included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: APD Chief of Staff David Carter/974-5030

Prior Council Action: June 7, 2007

This action approves a resolution authorizing the application for \$98,828 in grant renewal funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) for the Austin Police Department project entitled "Major Crimes Investigations 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 July 1, 2008 – June 30, 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 designated victim liaisons with the APD, the counselors provide crisis counseling and other 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.