Thursday, June 5, 2008

Police RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 23

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of \$297,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs; and amending the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Police Department Operating Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20070910-003 to appropriate \$297,000 for the City of Austin Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act Implementation Project.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for the grant period of April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. A 25% cash match of \$100,000 was included in the application and will be met using the existing salaries of Austin Police Department Sex Offender Apprehension and Registration Unit personnel.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is required.

For More Information: Assistant Chief David Carter/974-6866

The Austin Police Department will use the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act grant funding to perform two types of special assignments to verify sex offender addresses. All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact to the City.

On the first special assignment, eight detectives will conduct quarterly five-day sweeps to confirm sex offender address locations. The detectives plan to visit over 400 sex offenders during each operation. The other special assignment will consist of one detective performing 16 field checks per day, five days per week. These combined operations will allow detectives to visit each offender at least four times in one year. In addition, APD will use this funding to create a resource pamphlet that will be distributed to all registered sex offenders in Austin. During the course of these compliance checks, APD will investigate any offenders out of compliance and file appropriate criminal cases.