

AGENDA



Thursday, March 5, 2009

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 12**

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing the application for grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act grant program in the amount of \$124,071 for three (3) existing full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Services Counselors for the Austin Police Services for Victims of Domestic Violence Project.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act grant program for the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010. The required cash match of \$66,808 is included in the Approved Budget and will be met by accounting for a portion of the salary of an existing APD Victim Services Supervisor.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

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

Prior Council Action: April 7, 2008 - Acceptance of Fiscal Year 2008 funding.

This action approves a resolution authorizing the application for \$124,071 in grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act grant program for the Austin Police Department to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and stalking. The grant period is September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010. Two of the current FTEs are funded through Violence Against Women Grant and the third is currently funded through a State 421 Comprehensive Victim Services Grant. The required cash match of \$66,808 will be met by accounting for a portion of the salary of an existing APD Victim Services Supervisor.

The Governor's Office requires a resolution that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;

A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;

A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant; and

A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to CJD.

The goals of the three existing FTE Victim Services Counselors funded by this grant are to help each victim end the cycle of domestic violence through intervention as close to the time of the event as possible; to ensure proper case coordination, multidisciplinary case staffing, interagency communication, and follow up; and, to provide domestic violence training to professionals who respond to victims of crime.

The counselors will work in coordination with the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Protection Team to reduce victim trauma. The Team is a collaboration of agencies including Family Violence Detectives and Victim Services Counselors in the Austin Police Department, the Travis County Sheriff's Office, the Travis

County District Attorney's Office, the Texas Advocacy Project, Texas RioGrande Legal Aide, the Travis County Attorney's Office, and SafePlace.