

## AGENDA



Thursday, March 26, 2009

**Police  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 27**

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**Subject:** Approve an ordinance accepting \$42,979 in grant funding from the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority; and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate \$42,979 for a total grant amount of \$407,979 to purchase a license plate reader and a computer server for the Police Department Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Project.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available from the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority for the grant period September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009. No additional match is required for the acceptance of these funds.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is attached.

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

**Prior Council Action:** May 8, 2008 prior grant acceptance.

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The goal of the Police Department Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Project is to reduce the incidences of auto burglaries and thefts in the City of Austin. Several strategies are employed to meet this goal including investigation, enforcement, prevention, education and prosecution.

This supplemental grant funding will allow for the purchase of a license plate reader and a computer server. The license plate reader will be mounted in a marked or unmarked vehicle and will be operational not only when detectives are actively searching for stolen vehicles but while they are driving to locations citywide in the performance of other grant-related duties. The system processes four vehicle license plates per second and works by capturing digital license plate images as they pass the camera (and vice versa). A reader is capable of high-speed recognition across multiple lanes of dense traffic. The plates are automatically cross-checked in real time against any connected database. Audio and visual alarms will alert to a positive match which allows detectives to respond appropriately. Every plate read is time, date, and camera location stamped. The license reader will lead to a reduction in crime and will improve the safety of Austin roads. Installation, training, applicable software, and a one-year warranty are included in the price of the equipment.