

## AGENDA



Thursday, September 24, 2009

**Police  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 57**

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**Subject:** Approve an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of additional grant funds in the amount of \$87,239 from the Downtown Austin Alliance; and amending the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20080908-002 to appropriate an additional \$87,239 in funding for a total grant amount of \$516,239 for the Downtown Ranger Program, and add four full-time equivalent positions for a total of thirteen (13) authorized full-time equivalent grant positions for the Downtown Ranger Program.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available from the Downtown Austin Alliance from May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010.

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

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

**Prior Council Action:** February 28, 2008 acceptance of grant funds.

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The Downtown Ranger Program has been an effective tool in addressing public order issues and making the downtown area safer for citizens and visitors. Downtown Rangers are civilian employees that assist in walking and bicycle patrol. The Austin Police Department (APD) Downtown Area Command manages the Ranger Program. This Council action increases the staffing for the Ranger's program by four full-time equivalent(FTE) positions and it does not result in a decrease in other Downtown Area Alliance funded programs. The program is currently staffed with 9 FTE positions and 2 temporary positions.

Funding for these FTE positions will cover salary, fringe benefits and all related equipment such as a police bicycle and radio. The Downtown Ranger Program has been successful in providing part-time job opportunities to future APD cadets awaiting the APD Training Academy. This aspect of the program strengthens APD's recruitment efforts.