



Grant
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 14
AGENDA DATE: Thu 09/02/2004
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SUBJECT: Authorize an application of grant funding from U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Solving Cold Cases with DNA grant program in the amount of \$527,893 for investigative support for the Austin Police Department.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available in the Solving Cold Cases with DNA grant program for the period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2007. A cash match is not required.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Police
DEPARTMENT:

DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Rick Coy

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Coy, Assistant Chief/974-5021

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

This action authorizes the City to apply for \$527,893 from the Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Solving Cold Cases with DNA Program. The grant period runs from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2007. Continuation of the program beyond the grant award is contingent on funding in future budgets.

The Cold Case Unit will use the grant funds to review cases where a serious crime has been committed (sexual assault, murder, kidnapping) and DNA evidence can be tested to help solve the crime. In recent years, newer technologies have substantially increased the successful analysis of aged, degraded, limited or otherwise compromised biological evidence. In addition, the Austin Police Department has identified approximately 50 rape kits that have not been tested due to DNA backlogs. This grant would be used to test these kits and enter the information into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) for possible links to unsolved murders. The total cost for testing of these samples is \$51,000 per year, or \$102,000 over the two-year period.

The grant also includes funding for a full-time prosecutor with the Travis County District Attorney's Office (\$216,133 for two years) to not only prosecute the suspects, but to work as a team during the investigation process. This prosecutor will only handle cold cases referred by the Austin Police Department and Travis County Sheriff's Office. Having an assigned prosecutor will ensure that we have the staff to take these cases through the legal system. APD will hire a temporary administrative assistant (\$49,920 for two years) and a part-time intern (20 hours per week) to assist with the additional Cold Case research (\$24,960 for two years). APD will also enter into a contract with a retired investigator to work 20 hours per week handling the additional cold cases (\$65,012 for two years). Also included in the grant request is investigative travel expenses (\$20,000 per year) and investigator training (\$10,000 per year).



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Performance measures for this grant include the following:

Measure	Target Year 1	Target for 2 Year period
The number of cases analyzed for DNA evidence.	18	36
The number of rape kits analyzed for DNA analysis and entered into CODIS	25	50
Number of cases prosecuted by DA assigned to Cold Case Unit	10	20
Percentage increase in the number of cases generating evidence based on re-analysis	70%	75%