

## AGENDA



Thursday, June 24, 2010

**Police  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 37**

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**Subject:** Authorize application for \$457,140 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). The City of Austin will receive \$342,855 and Travis County will receive \$114,285. The City will use its JAG funds to pay for equipment for e-citation implementation.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the Justice Assistance Grant Program, for the grant period October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2013. A cash match is not required. Related to Item #38.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is not required.

**Prior Council Action:** July 23, 2009 council acceptance of prior year grant funding.

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This action authorizes the City to apply for \$457,140 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The federal legislation authorizing this grant program includes a provision whereby cities and counties must submit a joint funding application if the state's Attorney General certifies that a funding disparity exists in a county's allocation when compared with that of a single municipality (at least a 150 percent disparity must exist), and the county bears more than 50 percent of prosecution or incarceration costs arising from Uniform Crime Report Part 1 violent crimes reported by the municipality to the FBI. Once certified, jurisdictions then decide if funds will be shared, and if so, how the funding will be allocated. The City of Austin and Travis County will enter into an Interlocal Agreement so the City can serve as the fiscal agent responsible for distributing the grant funds.

The City of Austin will use its grant funds for partial funding for the e-citation implementation. The City of Austin is requesting support for an E (electronic) tickets project. The E-ticket system serves as a paperless citation and collision reporting system where officers issue traffic and other citations, write collision reports, and then submit this information to Municipal court and APD RMS computer databases with out additional input from currently assigned personnel. E-ticket writers communicate with their printers through Bluetooth technology. Proven efficiencies from other departments that use E-tickets are that there is a significant increase in the tickets that are written. This is because the E-ticket solution pre-fills a considerable amount of the information in the citation or collision report for the officer thus making it quicker to write a citation or complete a collision report. Also there would be no more discarded or returned citations because of illegible handwriting.