



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2013, **Agenda Item #:** 14.

6/6/2019

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of \$144,800 in grant funding from the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority for a new Austin Police Department project entitled the APD Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Improvements Project.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$144,800 is available from the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority for the project period of September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. The City match of \$36,200, approximately 20% of the total project cost, will be met by accounting for the base salary and fringe benefits of existing City positions.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

This action will provide the resolution required by the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority to apply for and accept \$144,800 in grant funding. The resolution approved by Council must be attached to the City grant application, which is due June 7, 2019.

The resolution must:

- Provide authority to apply for the grant
- Provide that funds will be returned in the event of loss or misuse
- Designate the Authorized Official (Assistant City Manager), Financial Officer (APD Financial Manager), and Project Director (APD Property Crimes Lieutenant)

The budget for the September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020 project period includes: personnel and fringe (\$103,000), equipment (\$32,000), and supplies (\$9,800). Personnel line items include four retired detectives in temporary status investigative support positions (20 hours per week). The City match of \$36,200, approximately 20% of the total project cost, will be met by accounting for the base salary and fringe benefits of existing City positions assigned in part to the project.

The Austin Police Department has partnered with the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority since the late 1990's. With the assistance of ABTPA grant funding, the APD Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Project has been successful in implementing a variety of strategies to reduce auto thefts, recover stolen vehicles, and prosecute offenders. Proactive crime analysis assists in identifying problems involving commercial auto thefts and in targeting "theft for profit" offenders. Examples of commercial auto theft activities occurring in Austin, Travis County include VIN switches, vehicle cloning, chop shops, illegal part dealings and international smuggling operations. Growth in population, registered vehicles and continued annexations to the City generate an increased number of vehicles, naturally leading to additional opportunities for criminal activity.

