



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2122, **Agenda Item #:** 7.

6/4/2020

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of \$430,685 in grant funding from the Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority to continue the Austin Police Department Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Project.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$430,685 is available from the Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority for the project period of September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2021. The City funding match of \$173,182 will be met by accounting for the base salary and fringe benefits of existing City positions.

Prior Council Action:

June 6, 2019 - Council approved Resolution No. 20190606-014 on consent on Mayor Pro Tem Garza's motion, Council Member Flannigan's second, with a 10-0 vote. Council Member Harper-Madison was absent.

For More Information:

Troy Gay, Austin Police Department, 512-974-5030

Additional Backup Information:

This action will provide the resolution required by the Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority to apply for and accept \$430,685 in grant funding. The resolution approved by Council must be attached to the City grant application, which is due June 12, 2020.

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, 2020 - August 31, 2021 project period will cover personnel and fringe costs (\$430,685) for existing positions. The City match of \$173,182 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 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA), formerly the Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority, since the late 1990's. With the assistance of MVCPA 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.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.