



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1579, **Agenda Item #:** 14.

4/8/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a subaward agreement with the Capital Area Private Defender Service in the amount of \$122,979 under the Austin Postconviction DNA Review and Testing Project.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$122,979 is available in a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence Program for the period of April 1 - September 30, 2021. A funding match is not required.

Prior Council Action:

September 13, 2017 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20170913-001, the City's Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Funding in the amount of \$122,979 is available in a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for the period of April 1 - September 30, 2021.

In 2017, the Capital Area Private Defender Service (CAPDS) partnered with the City of Austin and Travis County District Attorney's Office on the Austin Postconviction DNA Review and Testing Project. The overarching goal of the project is to provide postconviction review and DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses where actual innocence may be demonstrated. With \$122,979 in awarded (unobligated) funds remaining, the City will enter into a subaward agreement with CAPDS. CAPDS will use the funding to continue its review of cases, assist with fact investigations, and navigate DNA issues related to criminal investigations. The CAPDS budget will include two part-time attorney positions, a discovery clerk, training for staff, case-related travel, office supplies, and the fees and expenses of subject matter experts.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety