



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 ITEM NUMBER: CC-9

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF, A GRANT AWARD FROM THE OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR THE SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT – FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU

**PRESENTATION ZACHARY HOFERITZA, SERGEANT
BY:**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SGT. ZACHARY HOFERITZA (714) 754-5125
CONTACT:**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 19-XX, which authorizes the application for, and acceptance of, a grant award from the State of California – Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) and authorizes the City Manager to execute the Grant Agreement.
2. Approve a budget adjustment recognizing \$260,000 in grant revenue and appropriating \$260,000 to the Police Department budget for overtime, professional development, and equipment associated with the 2019 OTS STEP Grant.

BACKGROUND:

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration distributes federal funding to California through the Office of Traffic Safety. Grants are used to mitigate traffic safety program deficiencies, expand ongoing programs, and/or to develop new programs. Grant funding cannot replace existing program expenditures, nor can traffic safety funds be used for program maintenance, research, rehabilitation, and/or construction. The Police Department has been awarded similar grants in the past which have significantly assisted the objectives of the Traffic Safety Bureau and improved traffic safety for residents and visitors in the City of Costa Mesa.

Since 2005, the Office of Traffic Safety has awarded the Costa Mesa Police Department thirteen (13) traffic safety related grants. The funds associated with these grants were used to purchase specialized equipment and to pay the cost of personnel working targeted traffic operations.

The Office of Traffic Safety assembles collision data rankings based on city population numbers. The most recent year of compiled statistics used by OTS was for 2016. Costa Mesa was then ranked with 57 other cities with a population of 100,001-250,000. In relation to other cities in the group, Costa Mesa was ranked the thirteenth worst in fatal/injury collisions, eighth worst in alcohol-involved collisions, fifth worst in bicycle collisions, and the third worst in motorcycle collisions. Based upon these 2016 statistical rankings, OTS ranked Costa Mesa as the fourth worst city for overall traffic safety based upon collision data, when compared to other cities in the population group.

Along with injury collisions, impaired driving enforcement has always been a top priority for the Police Department. From 1986-2014, the Department staffed a full-time impaired driving enforcement team consisting of two full-time officers. However, based upon Police Department contraction in recent years, the full-time DUI Team was discontinued in 2014. The DUI Team was re-established in January 2019 and then suspended due to injuries and reduced staffing. The previous STEP Grant was used to supplement the loss of the DUI Team by funding a two-officer DUI team on Friday and Saturday nights. If not for this grant, the Department's ability to address DUI drivers would have been severely compromised.

Aside from the DUI enforcement team, the STEP Grant funds DUI checkpoints. These checkpoints are educational, highly visible, and provide a deterrent against impaired driving. The Department's commitment to DUI enforcement is evident in the OTS data rankings. In the study, Costa Mesa had the best ranking for DUI arrests in 2012 (847 arrests) and 2013 (717 arrests) out of 56 cities in the population group (*those years, the Department had a full-time DUI team*).

As set forth in the OTS rankings, in 2013, the Costa Mesa Police Department made 717 DUI arrests for the year. With the absence of the DUI Team, the Department made 356 DUI arrests in 2014, 356 DUI arrests in 2015, and 421 DUI arrests in 2016. Based on the City's data, the Department made 389 DUI arrests in 2017 and 397 DUI arrests in 2018.

With the 2014 addition of driving under the influence of drugs ("DUID") provisions to the California Vehicle Code (CVC sections 23152(f) and (g)), we are now able to accurately track the DUID problem in Costa Mesa. In 2014, 37 arrests were made for DUID or combinations of drugs/alcohol and that number nearly doubled in 2015 to 63. Subsequently, there were 75 DUID arrests in 2016, 107 DUID arrests in 2017, and 106 DUID arrests in 2018. This increase is in part due to the continued training of officers regarding DUID through OTS grant funded training.

ANALYSIS:

The Department's current grant expires on September 30, 2019. In anticipation of this expiration, the Police Department submitted applications and received tentative approval for the 2019 OTS STEP Grant. The grant will allow the department to implement the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). This program will provide a comprehensive approach to reducing violations, which commonly lead to collisions, while maintaining a focus on impaired and suspended/unlicensed drivers. Grant funds will be used to staff sobriety/driver license checkpoints and to staff targeted enforcement operations. In addition, funds will be used to

purchase operation related equipment and support additional law enforcement training related to DUI investigations and enforcement activities. The implementation of this training, along with the STEP enforcement operations, will help achieve the overall goal of reducing injury collisions, saving lives, and reducing liability.

The 2019-2020 grant will enable the Police Department to build upon successes achieved to date, while providing new objectives for increasing traffic safety throughout the City. The funding will allow the Department additional resources to combat impaired driving and enforce traffic laws aimed at saving lives. Objectives of the OTS grant include DUI saturation patrols; traffic enforcement operations targeting red light, excessive speed, and distracted driving violations; enforcement at high collision intersections; and sobriety/driver license checkpoints.

Some specific project objectives from the Grant Agreement include:

- Conduct four (4) DUI/DL checkpoints.
- Conduct twenty-seven (27) DUI saturation patrols.
- Conduct twelve (12) special traffic enforcement operations targeting red light, excessive speed and other violations at or near intersections with a disproportionate number of traffic collisions.
- Conduct six (6) special enforcement operations targeting distracted driving violations.
- Conduct three (3) bicycle and pedestrian safety enforcement operations.
- Provide advanced officer training in DUI enforcement to six (6) officers.

To receive the grant funds, OTS requires the City Council to adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of the agreement. OTS grant funding is based on the federal fiscal year, which begins on October 1, 2019, and ends on September 30, 2020. The Grant Agreement allocates \$260,000.00, which will be utilized over the federal fiscal year 12-month period. OTS will reimburse the City for approved grant expenditures throughout the grant period.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City Council may elect to not accept the grant; however, the Department would not be able to pursue the specific goals outlined in the report.

FISCAL REVIEW:

Subject to City Council approval and acceptance of the grant funds, a budget adjustment will be executed recognizing \$260,000 in grant revenue and appropriating \$260,000 to the Police Department's budget for overtime, professional development, equipment and other direct costs. The grant period is from October 1, 2019, to September 30, 2020.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the OTS STEP Grant Agreement, proposed resolution, and this report, and has approved them as to form.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS & PRIORITIES:

This item supports City Council Goal 1, Keep our Community Safe.

CONCLUSION:

Based upon an analysis of the STEP Grant Agreement and the available benefits to the City offered by the award of the grant, staff recommends City Council:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 19-XX, which authorizes the application for, and acceptance of, a grant award from the State of California – Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) and authorizes the City Manager to execute the Grant Agreement.
2. Approve a budget adjustment recognizing \$260,000 in grant revenue and appropriating \$260,000 to the Police Department budget for overtime, professional development, and equipment associated with the 2019 OTS STEP Grant.

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- ATTACHMENTS:
1. [Resolution No. 19-xx](#)
 2. [Office of Traffic Safety Grant Agreement](#)