

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 2, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF THE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PART I CRIMES TASK FORCE

ISSUE: Notification of a renewal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, in the amount of \$46,082 in federal funds and \$4,608 in local matching funds.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the application for the renewal of the \$50,690 JAG grant.

DISCUSSION: The federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program was first funded in FY 2005, replacing the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) program. The City has participated in these grant programs since 1997. The JAG grant would enable enforcement by the Police Department's Part I Crimes Task Force. This group addresses auto thefts and other serious crimes in Alexandria, and has significantly lowered the rate of auto thefts in Alexandria since its inception in March 1996. In 1995 a total of 1,183 auto thefts occurred in Alexandria. In 2005, total auto thefts were 514, a reduction of 57 percent over 10 years.

The federal share of funds is used for overtime to fund the Part I Crimes Task Force. The City share of the grant is used to lease undercover vehicles for the task force officers under an existing rental vehicle agreement. The total grant requested will be \$50,690, to fund overtime up to \$46,082 (the federal share of 90 percent), and rental vehicles up to \$4,608 (the required local share of 10 percent).

The application deadline was April 20, 2006. Police staff received an email in mid-March that the federal grant application on-line process would be open through the U.S. Department of Justice's web site. Alexandria's share of funding was predetermined by the grantor agency.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no additional fiscal impact from this grant. The City share of \$4,608 is funded in the Police operating budget for FY 2007.

STAFF:

Charles Samarra, Chief of Police
Amy Flenniken, Division Chief, Police