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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 16, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A RENEWAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVING INTERDICTION PROGRAM

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a renewal grant application to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a sixth year of funding, in the amount of \$92,275, for the Police Department to operate an aggressive driving and DWI interdiction program, and to purchase enforcement equipment.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) approve the grant application to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles in the amount of \$92,275, which will provide funds to the Police Department to operate a DWI/aggressive driving interdiction program in the City, and to purchase seven in-car video systems, seven radar units and two radar trailers; and
- (2) authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

DISCUSSION: In early March, staff received the renewal application for its DMV grant program that funds local police agencies under the Highway Safety Project grant program. The grant application must be submitted to DMV by April 30, 2002.

For the past six years the City has obtained a grant under this program for \$14,960 to allow the Police Department to pay overtime for police officers to conduct high intensity patrol operations targeting aggressive drivers whose behavior contributed statistically to automobile accidents and unsafe driving complaints. The targeted behaviors included right-of-way violations, stop sign violations, speeding and following too close. This program has proven effective and, along with other traffic enforcement efforts by the Police Department, resulted in a reduction of automobile accidents in the City during the last three years (from 2,128 in CY 1999 to 1859 in CY 2001). However, during this period the number of alcohol related automobile accidents steadily increased from 46 in CY 1999 to 107 in CY 2001.

The new grant request is for \$92,275 for FY 2003 (October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003). This grant includes \$29,920 for overtime operations to combat aggressive driving and DWI violations. The Police Department will employ mobile patrols and sobriety checkpoints as methods to reduce the number of alcohol related accidents in the City. The grant also includes \$62,355 to purchase seven radar units, seven in-car video systems and two radar trailers to be used in our campaign against aggressive driving and motorists driving while intoxicated.

FISCAL IMPACT: To receive the DMV grant of \$92,275, the City must identify 100 percent matching funds, which may be in-kind. Since the City's share is an in-kind match of resources, there is no additional fiscal impact to the City in obtaining this grant. The proposed match is identified in the Police Department's operating budget using budgeted salary and fringe benefit costs for the existing motorcycle officers.

It should be noted that there are no additional monies in the City budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended.

In addition, the City is responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency, as well as by the Office of Management and Budget and by the Finance Department.

ATTACHMENTS: None. The grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall during normal working hours.

STAFF:

Charles E. Samarra, Police Chief

Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager

Captain Cleveland L. Spruill, Police, Patrol Division One

Amy Flenniken, Division Chief, Fiscal Management, Police

Alfred Coleman, Budget/Management Analyst, OMB