

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RENEWAL GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 2004

ISSUE: Consideration of a renewal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LEBG) Program, in the amount of \$70,058 in federal funds and \$7,784 in local matching funds (Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council receive this grant application and schedule it for public hearing at its October 18, 2003 public hearing meeting to receive comments on the grant, as required by the U.S. Department of Justice; and following the public hearing:

- (1) Approve the submission of the City's on-line grant application, in the amount of \$77,842, of which 90 percent, or \$70,058, will be federal funds, and 10 percent, or \$7,784, will be provided from the FY 2004 Police Department operating budget for the local match; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute any documents that may be required to receive the grant and release the grant funds to the City for expenditure.

DISCUSSION: In August 2003, Police staff received an email notification that the federal FY 2003 grant application process was open on-line through the U.S. Department of Justice's web site. Staff completed the application, and the renewal grant was awarded on August 30, 2003, contingent upon City Council's approval of the grant submission within 90 days.

The federal grant application requires that a local advisory board review the proposed grant program. The Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board has reviewed and endorsed six previous LEBG grant applications. The Board is anticipated to approve the federal FY 2003 grant application at its October meeting.

Federal rules also require that a public hearing be held on the proposed use of grant funds prior to the obligation of the funds. To comply with this requirement, the grant submission will be set for public hearing on October 18, 2003.

The federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LEBG) program was first funded in FY 1997. This grant, if awarded, will be the City's seventh grant under the LEBG program, and will enable the continuation of 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 2002, total auto thefts were 794, a reduction of 33 percent over 7 years.

Police staff propose to obtain a renewal grant for FY 2004 that will pay for overtime costs for the Part I Crimes Task Force for about 3 months during the year. A typical task force consists of 5 officers working 5 days per week in flexible 8-hour shifts. The estimated overtime cost for the operation is \$74,800 (5 officers x 40 hours per week x \$34 x 11 weeks). Staff will ensure that total costs attributed to grant funds do not exceed the authorized grant amount.

The City share of the grant is used to lease undercover vehicles for the task force officers under an existing rental vehicle agreement. Without the LEBG grant, the Police Department would not have the monies in their budget for targeted enforcement efforts of this magnitude.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total proposed grant is \$77,842 and will be used to fund police officer overtime for Part I crime task forces in an amount not to exceed \$70,058 (the federal share of 90 percent). Undercover rental vehicles for task force members to use for surveillance will cost approximately \$7,784 (the required local share of 10 percent, funded from budgeted Police operating funds in FY 2004).

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

ATTACHMENT:

Application to Renew the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program for federal FY 2003 (printed from the Internet application site).

STAFF:

Charles Samarra, Chief of Police
Michele Evans, Assistant City Manager
Amy Flenniken, Division Chief, Police
Timothy Dickinson, Captain, Police

Application was submitted on August 21, 2003 01:46:14 PM EDT.

LLEBG FY 2003 Application			
Date Certified : 21-AUG-03		Date Submitted : 21-AUG-03	
Jurisdiction Information			
Jurisdiction: Alexandria City	County:	State: VIRGINIA	CDFA Number: 16.592
Budget Information			
Eligible Award Amount: \$70,058	Final Award Amount: \$70,058	Match Amount: \$7,784	Matching Funds Description: State and Local Government Units
CEO Information			
Title: City Manager	Name Prefix: Mr.	Last Name : Sunderland	First Name : Philip
Address: Alexandria City Hall 301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314-3211	Telephone: (703) 838-4300	Fax: (703) 838-6343	Email: amy.flenniken@ci.alexandria.va.us
Program Contact Information			
Title: Division Chief	Name Prefix: Mrs.	Last Name : Flenniken	First Name : Amy
Address: 2003 Mill Road Alexandria, VA 22314-4658	Telephone: (703) 706-3981	Fax: (703) 838-6345	Email: amy.flenniken@ci.alexandria.va.us
Application Details			
Date Agreed to Trust Fund Requirement: 21-AUG-03		Applicant is PSOHB Compliant: Yes	
Date Agreed to SPOC Requirement: 21-AUG-03		Date Agreed to SAA Review Requirement: 21-AUG-03	
Date Agreed to Certifications: 21-AUG-03		Date Agreed to Assurances: 21-AUG-03	

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