


*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RENEWAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVING/DUI INTERDICTION PROGRAM IN FY2009

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a renewal grant application to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for an aggressive driving and driving under the influence (DUI) interdiction program.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** That City Council:

- (1) Approve the grant application to the Virginia DMV, which is due on September 30, in the amount of \$42,925, which will provide funds to the Police Department to operate a DUI/aggressive driving interdiction program in the City; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

**DISCUSSION:** On August 18, staff received the renewal application for its DMV grant program that funds local police agencies under the Transportation Safety Project grant program.

For the past ten years the City has obtained a grant under this program 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 crashes and unsafe driving complaints. The targeted behaviors included right-of-way violations, stop sign violations, speeding and following too closely.

The new grant request is for \$42,925 for Federal FY 2009 (October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009). This grant money will be used for overtime operations to combat aggressive driving and DUI violations. The Police Department will employ police officers on overtime status to deploy mobile and stationary patrols as methods to reduce the number of alcohol and aggressive driving related accidents in the City.

The grant money will also be used to purchase equipment to assist officers with their enforcement efforts. Specifically, a request has been made for six (6) Alco-Sensors and three (3) Laser speed detection devices. The Alco-Sensors will allow an officer to determine a person's blood alcohol content as part of the preliminary investigation for DUI offenses. The Laser speed detection devices are used to enforce speeding violations.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** To receive the DMV grant of \$42,925, the City must identify 20 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 the grant. The proposed match is identified in the Police Department's operating budget for vehicle depreciation and maintenance costs. 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.

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

**STAFF:**

David P. Baker, Police Chief

Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager

Eddie Reyes, Captain, Police, Sector Two Commander

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