

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 02/25/2008		Item Number: PH-1	
AGENDA ITEM: Public Hearing Regarding the Use of Monies for Front Line Police Services as a Result of Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund Grant Under the Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS) Program, Including Continued Funding of a Property Technician Position (Civilian) in the Property and Forensic Unit, and Creation of an Overtime-Funded Officer Task Force to Address Community Crime Prevention.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Lt. Manuel Ariza		Phone Number: (310) 253-6260	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☒		Action Item: ☐ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Publication in the Culver City News. Master Notification List (02/21/08)			
Department Approval: Don Pedersen, Chief of Police (02/19/08)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (02/21/08)	
Fiscal Impact Review: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (02/19/08)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (02/21/08)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council hold a public hearing on the proposed use of fiscal year 2007/2008 Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF) money available from the State of California, Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) funding and approve the use of such grant funds to: 1) continue funding a Property Technician position (civilian) in the Property and Forensic Unit; and 2) create an overtime-funded officer task force to address community crime prevention. <u>PROCEDURE:</u> 1. Motion to receive and file the affidavit of publication and posting of Notice of Public Hearing. 2. Call for a staff report and/or pose questions to the staff. 3. Mayor opens public hearing and invites public comments. 4. Motion to close the public hearing. 5. Mayor calls for staff responses to questions from the public. 6. Discuss the matter and make your decisions. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> The 2007/2008 State budget provides funding for the "Supplemental Law Enforcement Funding" program, which began during the 1996/1997 State budget			
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year. The City of Culver City has been receiving various annual amounts of COPS funds towards the end of the respective calendar years. This funding is a “pass through” grant from the State of California with the money received from the County of Los Angeles.

The City is eligible once again to receive \$100,000 in SLESF monies for the exclusive purpose of funding “front line municipal police services” and in fact the funds were received in October, 2007. The proportionate shares are based on population estimated by the California Department of Finance. Those cities with populations less than 50,000 receive the minimum appropriation amount of \$100,000. The funds are to be appropriated pursuant to a written request from the Chief of Police and the funding process is subject to a public hearing to consider this request.

This is the twelfth (12th) year of funding for this grant. The grant requires that the funds be spent on front-line police services. At this time, the intended project for this grant is to continue funding one Property Technician position as it has done for the previous four (4) fiscal years. The Property Technician position has proven effective at reducing the work backlog in the forensics unit and eliminated the need to fund officers on an overtime basis to work in that section. This year, as in the last four (4) years, the Chief of Police is requesting that the salary adjustment surplus above the cost of the Property Technician position be used for the establishment of an overtime funded Task Force to address quality of life crimes.

Changing the planned expenditure for the funds is allowed and at the discretion of the Police Chief. SLESF funds cannot be used to supplant an existing budget and must be used for front line police services. There are no requirements for matching funds.

The grant funded Property Technician will result in an additional police officer on the street performing front line municipal police services. The grant funded overtime positions will place more officers in the field performing community crime prevention.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The City has already received the funds and the Property Technician position, as proposed, will continue to be entirely funded by the grant. The remaining monies will be used to fund the officer task force costs. The grant has already been appropriated by the City Council in the fiscal 07/08 budget in Business Unit 41441700.

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ATTACHMENT:

1. Inter-Departmental Correspondence to the Mayor and City Council stating the preference for the SLESF Program Funds.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Approve the continued use of SLESF program grant monies to fund one (1) Property Technician position and the remaining grant monies to establish an overtime-funded task force to address community crime prevention.