

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 06/27/05		Item Number: <u>A-3</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Authorize The Chief Administrative Officer to Accept the U.S. Dept. of Justice Secure Our Schools Grant; Authorize Entering into a Services Agreement with Security Plus Company; and Authorize the Police Department to Utilize Asset Seizure Funds to meet the Grant's Required Match Amount.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Ed Baughan, Police Department		Phone Number: (310) 253-6260	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒	Attachments: ☒
Public Notification: Security Plus Co. (6/13/05) Master Notification List (6/20/05)			
Department Approval: John A. Montanio 06/20/2005		CAO Approval: Jerry Fulwood 6/21/05	
City Controller Approval: Jim Lavery 6/20/05			

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize Chief Administrative Officer Jerry Fulwood to accept the U.S. Department of Justice Office, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Secure Our Schools Grant (SOS) in the amount of \$10,000.

That the City Council authorize staff to enter into a professional services agreement in an amount of \$20,000 with Security Plus Co. to enhance the existing video security system at the Culver Middle and High School Campuses.

That the City Council authorize the Police Department to utilize \$10,000 in asset seizure funds as a required match for the SOS grant to be combined with the grant amount of \$10,000 for the purchase of the enhancement to the existing school video security system.

This is a budget amendment item, which requires 4/5ths vote for approval.

BACKGROUND:

The Culver City High and Middle Schools are situated on a combined campus of over 6.5 acres, with over 4000 students and faculty present during the school day. The school currently has nineteen obsolete surveillance cameras covering only about 20% of the campus. Even these scattered and obsolete cameras have been invaluable in helping deter, solve, and record crimes that have occurred on the campus. The crimes have ranged from simple vandalism and petty theft, upwards to

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robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. Many of these crimes would have gone unsolved or rejected for prosecution because of a lack of evidence if it were not for the surveillance cameras. Unfortunately, some crime occurs and goes unsolved in areas that are not under surveillance. Students know these unprotected areas.

The SOS grant was originally applied for in 2004 with initial approval of a proposed plan to enhance the existing video security system at the Culver City Middle and High School campuses. The grant required a \$10,000 match of funds. Police Department staff initially declined the grant because of continuing budget cuts and a lack of availability of matching funds.

The price of video surveillance equipment declined and in late February of 2005, Chief John Montanio proposed using Asset Seizure account funds to meet the grant's match requirement. The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, was contacted and represented that the grants funds were still available to the Department for the proposed use. The drop in equipment prices and the ability to use Asset Seizure funds for the required match, now presented the Department with an opportunity to provide additional security to the campus with a minimal investment.

Security Plus Company, the business who initially installed, and continues to maintain the School's video security system was contacted and requested to submit a proposal for purchase and installation of the required upgrade equipment. Exhibit "A" is a copy of the Security Plus Company's proposal.

The Department's application for assistance was accepted by the U.S. Department of Justice Office, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, with the proposed use of matching funds.

The Culver Unified School District requested that the City contract with the Security Plus Company because they originally installed the existing video security system and continue to maintain it. For ease of integration of the new and existing systems and maintenance and repair cost reasons, the School District did not want other vendors working on their existing system. For those reasons, Security Plus Company was the only vendor requested to submit proposals for the upgrade project.

DISCUSSION:

This grant and matching funds will be used to increase the number of cameras on the school campus, specifically the addition of three tilt-pan-zoom cameras that

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would cover the largest common areas of the campus: the student parking lot, the blacktop area, the sports fields, and the interior high school quad area. Additionally, the digital recording system would be improved with the funding to enhance the quality and clarity of the current camera recording system for perpetrator identification and court presentation purposes. Several fixed cameras would be added to areas of concern in the common areas of the school grounds.

The surveillance cameras now in use provide a sense of safety for the students and faculty. The addition of new cameras and a digital recording system will enhance the feeling of safety and welfare and can help improve prosecution when crimes occur. This sense of security provides a better learning environment. A safe campus assures that quality instructors will want to continue their employment and remain in the teaching profession.

Currently the Culver City Police Department has two uniformed patrol officers assigned to the school district as School Resource Officers. The School Resource Officers dedicate 95% of their patrol time in and around the schools of the Culver City Unified School District. This includes the Culver City High and Middle School campuses, as well as five elementary schools and a continuation high school. The Resource Officers were actively involved in the decision process related to the selection and placement of the new security equipment. They also met with personnel from the proposed vendor and physically walked the campus with the representative to determine the best location for the cameras.

The monitoring and maintenance of the equipment will remain the responsibility of the Culver Unified School District. No covert cameras are to be installed and the system represents a responsible balance between the privacy rights of the staff and students with the need for responsible security improvements to our school campuses.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Asset Seizure funds are to be used to meet the grant's required match amount. All maintenance and related expenses for the equipment will be absorbed by the Culver City Unified School District. Existing Culver City Police Department personnel will be utilized to monitor the installation of the equipment on a non-overtime basis. There will be no impact on the Department or the City's General Fund.

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Security Plus Company's Proposal.
2. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Secure Our Schools Grant and related documents.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Authorize Chief Administrative Officer Jerry Fulwood to accept the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Secure Our Schools Grant in the amount of \$10,000;
2. Authorize staff to enter into a professional services agreement, in an amount of \$20,000, with Security Plus Co. to enhance the existing video security system at the Culver Middle and High School Campuses;
3. Authorize the Police Department to utilize \$10,000 in asset seizure funds as a required match for the SOS grant to be combined with the grant amount of \$10,000 for the purchase of the enhancement to the existing school video security system;
4. Direct the City Attorney to prepare the appropriate agreement; and
5. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.
6. Authorize a budget amendment to add new grant revenue(Secure Our Schools Grant) in the amount of \$10,000; transfer of \$10,000 from Asset Seizure fund; and appropriate \$20,000 for Professional Services agreement for the School Video Security System.