

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 12-06-10		Item Number: <u>C-2</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Introduction of an Ordinance Accepting the Requirements of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Relating to the Recruitment and Training of Public Safety Dispatchers			
Contact Person/Dept.: Sgt. Bill Browne/Police Department		Phone Number: (310) 253- 6212	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: _____	
Public Notification: Meetings and Agendas – City Council (12/02/10).			
Department Approval: 11/18/10 Don Pedersen (11/18/10)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by L. Vidra 11/22/10)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (12/01/10)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (12/02/10)	
 <u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council introduce a proposed ordinance accepting the requirements of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) relating to the recruitment and training of public safety dispatchers. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> On July 1, 1990, the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) established a certificate program for Public Safety Dispatchers. The purpose was to raise the level of competency and to establish rules of minimum standards related to recruitment and training for Public Safety Dispatchers. Currently there are 376 departments/agencies statewide that participate in the POST Dispatcher program. <u>DISCUSSION:</u> Staff is proposing that the Culver City Police Department (CCPD) enter its Communications Unit into the P.O.S.T Public Safety Dispatcher Training Program. To do so, there are two requirements that must be met. First, a letter from the Chief of Police must be written and sent to the Executive Director of P.O.S.T. stating the desire and intention to bring the CCPD Communications Unit into the Public Safety Dispatcher Program. Second, the Culver			

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City Council must adopt an ordinance accepting the requirements of Penal Code Sections 13510(c) and 13512, relative to the recruitment and training standards of Public Safety Dispatchers (Attachment A is the proposed ordinance; Attachment B contains the relevant Penal Code sections). It is not necessary that this ordinance be codified into the Culver City Municipal Code.

Once these requirements are met, each newly hired dispatcher will be required to attend the P.O.S.T. 120 hour basic dispatcher course within one year of being hired. All current dispatchers who have not attended the course will not be required to attend the 120 hour course, but may attend at the discretion of the CCPD.

However, the Department intends to send all of CCPD's current dispatchers to the training so they can benefit by the latest training and updates. The schedule for this will be dependent upon the availability of overtime to cover their absences.

As previously stated, the purpose for P.O.S.T. creating a certificate program was to establish higher standards for recruitment and training standards for Public Safety Dispatchers.

Currently, the vast majority of agencies in California, including Santa Monica Police, Beverly Hills Police, El Segundo Police, and Los Angeles Police Departments, as well as the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, all participate in the P.O.S.T. dispatchers' certificate training program.

Staff believes that entering the CCPD Communications Unit into the certificate program will add additional expertise to the unit, as well as allow the City's Dispatchers to attend certified training on a recurring basis. The training will enhance their ability to perform their duties and provide a better quality of service to the officers, as well as to the residents and business owners of the community they serve.

Additionally, by entering into the P.O.S.T. program, the City will be entitled to reimbursement of certain costs incurred for sending a dispatcher to a P.O.S.T. certified training course. This is a benefit the City is currently not afforded as a result of not being entered into the certificate program.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

If a dispatcher takes the basic 120 hour, P.O.S.T. certified dispatcher course reimbursable expenses for the training would include a per diem and travel expenses (mileage). Expenses such as overtime backfill, lodging, and course tuition are not reimbursable. Whenever possible, CCPD makes every effort to find training close to Culver City. The average course tuition is approximately \$63.00 for the entire 120 hours.

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While dispatchers are away at training it may be necessary to fill the vacancies with overtime.

The Department plans to utilize existing overtime and training resources to cover any vacant shifts. Therefore, there will be no effect on the current fiscal year budget.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance
2. Penal Code

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Introduce an Ordinance accepting the requirements of the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) relating to the recruitment and training of public safety dispatchers.