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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: William McCarthy, Chief of Police

SUBJECT—

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security and Iowa's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division identified key assets and critical infrastructure of national significance, in accordance with Buffer Zone Protection Planning (BZPP) Program criteria. The Police Department participated in training programs and prepared two plans for sites identified by U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the Des Moines area. (The sites and planning documents are deemed to be "Law Enforcement Sensitive – Homeland Security Information" by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and copies of the planning documents are not included for security reasons.)

SYNOPSIS—

The initial Buffer Zone Protection Planning (BZPP) Program began in the fall of 2003 with state and federal governments identifying lists of critical assets. In March 2004, members of the police department participated in Buffer Zone Protection Planning training program and in subsequent months, completed plans for two sites identified in Des Moines.

The original U. S. Department of Homeland Security BZPP Program included the federal purchase of up to \$50,000 dollars of equipment per site, from an approved equipment list, that was to be hand receipted to local agencies for use in protecting the sites. After a year of effort, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security realized it was unable to meet its' obligations to the program, and turned the funding and planning documents over to the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP).

The Office of Domestic Preparedness changed the BZPP Program into a state grant program, with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division identified as the State Point of Contact

(SPOC). The Office of Domestic Preparedness sent the plans through another federal review process and on October 25, 2005 the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management was notified that the plans were approved and the City of Des Moines was eligible to draw program funds to purchase the equipment identified in the Vulnerability Reduction Purchasing Plan (VRPP).

FISCAL IMPACT—

The receipt of \$96,230.30 for the purchase of specific equipment approved by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security and Office of Domestic Preparedness for use by the Police Department and the identified critical infrastructure to enhance security and defend the sites against a potential attack.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval for the Police Department to work with Iowa Homeland Security, Emergency Management, and the Finance and Purchasing Departments to purchase the equipment to be used by the Police Department and the critical infrastructure for asset protection, within the ODP guidelines and the approved program funds of \$96,230.30 dollars.

BACKGROUND—

The Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) provided funding to support implementation of protective measures for national critical infrastructure identified through the Buffer Zone Security Planning Process directed by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) Directorate.

Program Description:

IAIP is working with state and local emergency response personnel to develop Buffer Zone Protection Plans for critical infrastructure sites. The buffer zone is the area outside of a critical infrastructure or key asset facility that can be used to conduct surveillance or launch a terrorist attack. Buffer Zone Planning helps to identify and/or enhance existing procedures and capabilities to prevent a terrorist incident at identified facilities. The Buffer Zone Protection Plan developed through this IAIP initiative, forms the basis for identifying the required training, information, equipment, and recommended protective measures to address security shortfalls.

Specifically, the purpose of the Buffer Zone Protection Planning initiative is to:

- Define a buffer zone outside the security perimeter of a critical infrastructure facility;
- Identify specific threats and vulnerabilities associated with the buffer zone;
- Analyze and categorize the level of risk associated with each vulnerability; and
- Recommend corrective measures within a buffer zone that will reduce the risk of a successful terrorist attack by:
 - Devaluing a target by making it less attractive or too costly for an aggressor to attack;
 - Deterring an event from happening;
 - Detecting an aggressor who is planning or committing an attack or the presence of a hazardous device or weapon; and
 - Defending against attack by delaying or preventing an aggressor's movement toward the asset or to successfully deploy the use of weapons or explosives.