

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: December 8, 2014
	Agenda Item No. 45 Roll Call No. <u>14-1866</u> Communication No. <u>14-564</u> Submitted by: Douglas M. Harvey, Chief of Police

AGENDA HEADING:

The Police Department requests Council approval to refuse a 2014 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grant award of \$250,000 made on September 29, 2014.

SYNOPSIS:

The Police Department applied for a 2014 COPS Hiring Grant in June 2014, following Council approval. At the time of application the grant carried a stipulation that the City must apply each year in order to be eligible to apply the following year. Subsequent to City’s 2014 application this stipulation was eliminated by the COPS Office of the Department of Justice. Without this stipulation, the City is no longer required to submit an annual application. Just as before, the City may choose to decline a COPS grant award without jeopardizing opportunities for future grant funding. All of this information has been confirmed directly with the COPS Office.

COPS approval of the City’s 2014 COPS Hiring Grant Program request for funds to help support two (2) new police officers has been received by the Des Moines Police Department. The Department received a Notice of Award in the amount of \$250,000 on September 29, 2014. Council action either to accept or refuse must occur within 90 days of the award.

City acceptance of the 2014 COPS grant award would require compliance with COPS grant program requirements, including a commitment to provide minimum financial contributions for a four (4) year period. This contribution is estimated to total approximately \$690,000. Reviews of the mandated financial commitment by the Chief of Police, Finance Department, and the City Manager concluded the City lacks the budgetary capacity to fund the local match requirement.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The COPS Office is the office of the U.S. Department of Justice that advances the practice of community policing in national law enforcement agencies through sharing information and providing grant opportunities. The community policing philosophy promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

The City of Des Moines accepted the 2009 COPS Hiring Grant and was able to hire nine (9) new officers. The City's commitment associated with this grant was completed in October of 2014. The officers have been absorbed into vacant positions.

In September of 2013, the City accepted the 2013 COPS Hiring Grant award which incorporated the hiring of nine (9) new officers. The hiring process is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed in April 2015. These officers will allow the police department to maintain important specialized sections such as the Neighborhood Based Service Delivery (NBSD) and the Traffic Enforcement Unit as part of the existing Community Oriented Policing Initiative.

In June of 2014, the Police Department requested and received Council approval to submit an application for the 2014 COPS Hiring Grant which requested two (2) newly hired, full-time, law enforcement officers. The grant would fund \$250,000 of salary and benefit costs for the two (2) officers over a three (3) year period. The City would be responsible for all remaining costs. The grant also stipulated that the City must retain the officers for an additional 12 month period at the completion of the grant term. The Police Department received a Notice of Award for this grant on September 29, 2014 with a deadline of acceptance in 90 days.

The Police Department recommends Council refuse the 2014 COPS Hiring Grant due to the lack of resources to fund the local match requirement, as well as the change in COPS Program regulations. The Police Department is no longer required to submit an annual grant application in order to be eligible for funding in future years. The decline of this funding opportunity will not have adverse effects on any future funding.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: June 23, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-0961](#)

Action: [Application](#) for a COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). ([Council Communication No. 14-307](#)) Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 5-2.

Date: November 18, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-1818](#)

Action: [Grant](#) award for the FY2013 COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Hiring Program, \$1,125,000. ([Council Communication No. 13-574](#)) Moved by Coleman to approve. Motion Carried 6-0.

Date: May 20, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-0805](#)

Action: [Application](#) to Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for funding through the FY2013 COPS Hiring Program. ([Council Communication No. 13-242](#)) Moved by Hensley to approve. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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