

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: February 9, 2015
	Agenda Item No. 24 Roll Call No. <u>15-0210</u> Communication No. <u>15-055</u> Submitted by: Douglas M. Harvey, Chief of Police

AGENDA HEADING:

The Police Department seeks approval to submit an application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for the Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program (Project Safe Neighborhoods) Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Competitive Grant.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to submit an application for funding through the FY2015 Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Competitive Grant Program. The maximum amount the City of Des Moines is eligible to apply for is \$150,000 based on the population category set in the grant announcement. This funding includes a mandate for partnerships with community leaders, prosecutors, corrections, probations, federal agencies and a local research facilitator. Many of these relationships are currently in place. This grant does not require matching funds but has specific guidelines on the expenditure of the funding to include officer overtime and training related to guns and/or gangs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$150,000

Funding Source: A new budget would be established under Special Revenues in the FY2015 Recommended Operating Budget page 215.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative is designed to reduce crime associated with gangs and gun violence through cooperative efforts of law enforcement, the judicial system, and the community. The Police Department currently has collaborative partnerships with various law enforcement and judiciary offices at the federal, state, and local levels. In 2011, the Police Department initiated the Community Ambassador Program which consists of community leaders who volunteer their time to work with police to address safety issues in the neighborhoods. Many of the community leaders have expressed concerns about gang activity, drive by shootings, and drug related issues.

The Project Safe Neighborhoods grant funding opportunity is to target enforcement, prosecution, and deterrence of gang violence and gun crime reduction. The grant application must include a problem-solving program based on a strategic plan to address current issues that involve gun and violent crimes. In 2015, the Police Department will continue to prioritize the reduction of gun crimes and gang related activity. The Police Department intends to use the Project Safe Neighborhoods grant funding for overtime surveillance and increased enforcement in targeted areas of the City where gang and/or gun

activity has been persistent. The grant mandates a research partner to work with the Project Safe Neighborhoods task force to collect, evaluate and analyze data collected from these activities. The Police Department has worked with Simpson College Criminal Justice Program (Simpson) in the past through voluntary internships and project assistance. Simpson contacted the Police Department to show interest in being the research partner for the Project Safe Neighborhoods grant. The Police Department will utilize the established relationship with Simpson to fulfill the research partner requirement of the grant.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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