


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>19-215</b>	Meeting:	<b>May 20, 2019</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>36</b>	Roll Call:	[ _____ ]
	Submitted by:	<b>Dana Wingert, Chief of Police</b>		

### AGENDA HEADING:

Approving and authorizing the submission of an application for the Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA and Other Forensic Technologies grant with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

### SYNOPSIS:

The DOJ released a solicitation to receive applications for funding to support the investigation and prosecution of cold cases with a submittal date of May 28, 2019. The Police Department seeks to apply for \$335,628 to fund the salary and fringe benefits of a new police officer to support the appointment of a detective who will be dedicated to the investigation of violent crime cold cases. The cold cases may contain DNA or other evidence that could not be collected or processed prior to today's technological advances.

The City would be required to match at least 25% of the total cost of the project. The proposed match would be met through the salary and benefits cost of part time, retired officers working 20 hours a week for 50 weeks each year of the three (3) years grant term, to assist the assigned detective with data entry and investigations related to violent crime cold cases. The match would be in the amount of \$111,876. The City Council will be asked to accept the grant if awarded.

The City of Des Moines has over 100 open homicides dating back to 1954 and 10 missing persons. These cases would be re-examined for possible new evidence to identify a suspect or provide more substantial evidence to allow for the prosecution of an already identified suspect.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

#### Amount:

- Three (3) Year Grant funding request: \$335,628
- Three (3) Year Required City matching funds: \$111,876

Cost to the City would be approximately \$37,000 annually.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- Cold cases are cases that were investigated according to protocols at the time they happened. However, a suspect was never located, leads did not produce enough evidence, or the evidence collected was not strong enough to support prosecution. Detectives often review these cases, but they remain unsolved.
- Technological advances in evidence collection and processing along with updated DNA testing may offer new evidence in the 100 open homicide cases and 10 missing persons cases that remain as open cases dating back to 1954. Reinvestigating these cold cases and reexamining the evidence may identify a suspect or provide the additional evidence needed for the suspect to be charged and prosecuted.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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