

Council Meeting of
January 23, 2007

PUBLIC HEARING

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Police - Convene a public hearing concerning Assembly Bill 3229,
Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) grant funding. Expenditure:
\$286,326**

RECOMMENDATION

The Chief of Police recommends that Council:

1. Convene a public hearing concerning Assembly Bill 3229, the 2006 Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) grant funding;
2. Receive input from staff on programs of interest to the Chief of Police and Council as well as the public on the use of the grant funds; and
3. At the close of the hearing, appropriate and allocate \$286,326 and any interest to the recommended projects.

FUNDING:

2006 Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) Grant Funds.

BACKGROUND

In the July 1996-97 State budget, then-Governor Wilson signed a provision for law enforcement funding. AB 3229 established the Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) program, which is supplemental funding for local law enforcement for the purpose of insuring public safety. The legislation requires that the funds be used for the support of frontline municipal police services and must supplement funding for existing law enforcement services. This grant program is ongoing and it requires a budget appropriation each fiscal year to continue funding.

ANALYSIS

The City has received \$286,326 in 2006 COPS funding. The Police Department is recommending the funds be approved and allocated to the following projects:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Police Officer Recruitment	\$ 20,000
Recruitment Incentives	10,000
Secondary Weapons	60,000
Victim Assistance	50,000
Dispute Resolution	15,000
Staff Assistant	75,000
Cadet Program	<u>56,326</u>
	\$286,326

Police Officer Recruitment

Law enforcement agencies compete for employees from the same small applicant pool. The Department has met this challenge by creating an aggressive and comprehensive recruitment plan to attract the best candidates to our City. It is recommended that \$20,000 be set aside for recruitment expenditures to enable the Department to respond to recruitment opportunities as they arise.

Recruitment Incentives

In 2000, Council appropriated and allocated \$30,000 in COPS grant funding to offer incentives to current employees who refer Police Officer candidates to the Department. These funds motivated employees to actively promote the Department at all times and in more venues than can be reached through formal recruitment channels. The Department recommends that \$10,000 be allocated to continue the recruitment incentives.

Secondary Weapons FEAP630

Since 1998, the Police Department has used the Heckler and Koch (H&K) MP5 as the secondary weapon in police units. The MP5 was adopted after several incidents where other agencies' officers were at an extreme disadvantage in armed encounters due to the suspects' heavy armament. In 2001, H&K stopped making the MP5 due to low sales. The manufacture of spare parts was also discontinued. The Department is no longer able to keep the MP5 in service and these secondary weapons must be replaced soon at a total cost of over \$100,000. The Department recommends that \$60,000 of COPS grant funds be set aside toward the purchase of secondary weapons.

Victim Assistance Program

In November 1996, Council appropriated and allocated \$100,000 in COPS grant funding to develop and support a Victim Assistance program. Additional grant funding was approved by Council in each subsequent year. The Victim Assistance program has proven to be very successful in meeting the needs of the community. The Department recognizes the value of the Victim Assistance program and recommends that \$50,000 be allocated to support its continued operation.

Dispute Resolution

The Police Department's use of the City's Dispute Resolution program is significant, and it has become an integral part of the Department's Community Oriented Policing style. It is the Department's recommendation that \$15,000 be allocated and directed to the Dispute Resolution program in order to maintain funding for the use of this very important community program.

Staff Assistant

For the 2003-04 budget, Council approved the creation of an Animal Control Program, and a grant-funded Staff Assistant position was moved from the Records Division into the Animal Control Program for staff support. The Animal Control program has been extremely successful and it is well received by the community. In addition to services provided to the public, the Animal Control program is a resource used by Police Officers in handling field situations where animals must be controlled or protected. The Animal Control program has a continuing need for staff support. The Police Department recommends allocating \$75,000 from this grant to continue funding the Animal Control Staff Assistant.

Cadet Program

The Cadet Program prepares and develops qualified individuals to enter the field of law enforcement with the Torrance Police Department. The program currently consists of eight Police Cadets who will each participate in a variety of assignments as part of their career development. The Department recommends allocating \$56,326 and any interest on this grant to the Cadet Program.

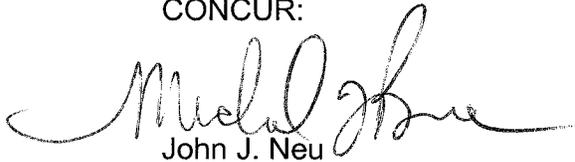
Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU
Chief of Police



By: Laurie Anderson
Business Manager

CONCUR:



John J. Neu
Chief of Police



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

