

Council Meeting of
June 24, 2008

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: \$285,663.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that Council:

1. Convene a public hearing concerning Assembly Bill 3229, the 2007 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 \$285,663 and any interest to the recommended projects.

FUNDING:

2007 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 \$285,663 in 2007 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	6,000
Victim Assistance	25,000
Dispute Resolution	16,500
Cadet Program	128,163
FATS Upgrade	<u>90,000</u>
	\$285,663

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

Each year since 2000, Council has appropriated and allocated 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 \$6,000 be allocated to continue the recruitment incentives.

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 \$25,000 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 \$16,500 be allocated and directed to the Dispute Resolution program in order to maintain funding for the use of this very important community program.

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 \$128,163 and any interest on this grant to the Cadet Program.

Firearms Training Simulator Upgrade

The Police Department uses a Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) as one component of Officer training. The existing FATS system is based on obsolete video technology that is in disrepair. It would be costly to attempt repairs and there is no assurance that the system can be made to work. By upgrading the FATS system to current digital video technology, the Department will have a fully operational system with enhanced training capabilities, including a larger and more dynamic library of training scenarios. The Department recommends allocating \$90,000 to the FATS system upgrade.

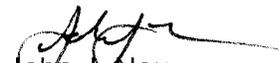
Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU
Chief of Police



By: Laurie Anderson
Business Manager

CONCUR:



John J. Neu
Chief of Police



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

HONORABLE MAYOR & MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL,

INTRO: Business Manager in the Research and Training Division of the Police Department.

HERE TO DISCUSS the approval of the 2007 COPS grant and the allocation of \$285,663 from that grant.

THIS GRANT WILL FUND the following projects:

Police Officer Recruitment
Recruitment Incentives
Victim Assistance Program
Dispute Resolution Program
Cadet Program
Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) Upgrade

Recruitment, Victim Assistance, Dispute Resolution, and the Police Cadet programs are ongoing programs that were funded by the COPS grant in prior years. Additionally, the Police Department seeks to upgrade its Firearms Training Simulator to update obsolete video technology and to ensure optimal training for Police Officers. The Police Department recommends these projects as appropriate for the 2007 COPS grant.

Thank you for your consideration. Staff is available to answer any questions.