

Council Meeting of  
January 13, 2009

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

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: Police – Adopt a RESOLUTION for a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice to enhance cold case investigations. Expenditure: N/A.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council adopt a RESOLUTION (Attachment A) approving the application for US Department of Justice (DOJ) grant funds to increase Police capacity for cold case investigations.

**FUNDING**

Not applicable.

**BACKGROUND**

Recent developments in DNA technology have enhanced the capacity of state and local government to investigate and solve cold cases. However, many agencies are short of adequate staffing and resources to both efficiently investigate unsolved criminal cases and to find and analyze DNA evidence collected from crime scenes. In December 2008, the DOJ solicited grant applications for the identification, review, and investigation of cold cases that potentially can be solved using DNA analysis. The City of Torrance is eligible to apply for up to \$250,000 from the 2009 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Grant, to be expended within 18 months from date of award. There is no requirement for matching funds or cost sharing. The attached Resolution will be submitted in support of the City's grant application, enabling the Police Department to compete for grant funds. If awarded, the Police Department will bring forward program details and grant terms for Council review and acceptance.

**ANALYSIS**

The Police Department has two full-time Detectives assigned to cold case investigations and is backlogged with cold cases awaiting investigation. The Department's contract Senior Criminalist, tasked with analyzing all DNA evidence, is unable to complete the workload of DNA analysis within standard working hours. The DOJ grant provides funds to enhance cold case investigations. In soliciting applications, DOJ stressed the importance of cold case teams which provide imperative staff expertise and hours to successfully investigate and prioritize cold cases, as well as locate and analyze biological evidence taken from a crime scene. Funds available through DOJ can be used to improve cold case investigations through: employment agency staffing; overtime pay for cold case team members; investigative equipment and supplies; consulting/contract services; and/or training. The Police Department will use awarded

grant funds to increase cold case investigative capacity for up to 18 months following the date of award.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU  
Chief of Police

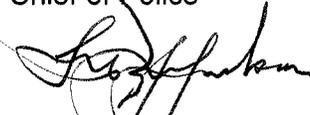


By: Kent Sentinella  
Administrative Analyst

CONCUR:



John J. Neu  
Chief of Police



LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

Attachment A: Resolution for application of USDOJ Cold Case DNA Grant

## RESOLUTION NO. 2009-\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION BY THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING  
THE CITY'S APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO ENHANCE COLD CASE  
INVESTIGATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes that it is in the City's best interest to seize all opportunities to improve the Police Department's capacity to solve crime and improve public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Torrance pioneered the concept of contracting with the County of Los Angeles to obtain the services of a Senior Criminalist, whose time is dedicated exclusively to processing evidence for the Torrance Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes the importance of providing closure to those affected by crime and supports the continuous investigation of unsolved crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice has made competitive grant funds available specifically for the enhancement of cold case investigations through DNA analysis and the City can benefit from increased resources devoted to cold case investigative efforts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HEREBY:**

Approves the filing of an application with the U.S. Department of Justice for the Solving Cold Cases with DNA grant to increase City capacity for cold case investigations.

Introduced, approved and adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
JOHN FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

by \_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald T. Pohl, Assistant City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Herbers  
City Clerk

