

Council Meeting of
December 15, 2009

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: \$33,359.90**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that Council:

1. Convene a public hearing concerning Assembly Bill 3229, the 2009 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 \$33,359.90 to the recommended project.

FUNDING:

Funding is available in the 2009 Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) Grant.

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 Police Department is eligible for up to \$100,000 in COPS funding from the 2009-10 grant cycle. The State will disburse the grant funds in installments. The first payment in the amount of \$33,359.90 has been received.

On February 24, 2009, item 12D, Council approved the conversion of the Police Department's Crime Scene Investigation unit from sworn to civilian personnel. Job classifications for Forensic Identification Specialists were established and the Department is in the process of hiring. In conjunction with the personnel conversion, the Department is planning to reconfigure existing space within the Police facility to accommodate a Forensics Lab and associated office space for a team of seven Forensic Identification Specialists. The Police Department recommends that this first installment of the 2009 COPS grant be appropriated and allocated to purchase workstations, computers, and office equipment for the new Forensic Identification Section office.

The Police Department also funds ongoing programs with the COPS grant, including Dispute Resolution, Victim Assistance, and Police Officer Recruitment. These programs have sufficient funds for the current year. Staff will return to Council to appropriate additional funds for these programs when the next COPS grant installments are received.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU
Chief of Police



By: Laurie Anderson
Business Manager

CONCUR:



John J. Neu
Chief of Police



LeRoy Jackson
City Manager