



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: September 1, 2009

SUBJECT: Authorize the Department to Accept the 2009 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Award

Report in Brief

The Woodland Police Department, in its diligent efforts to identify and pursue other sources of funding, submitted a joint application along with the County of Yolo and the Cities of Davis and West Sacramento for the 2009 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program. The program awarded the City of Woodland, via the Police Department, a total of \$56,197 in grant funds. The Department plans to utilize these funds for partial support of its Crime Prevention Program, whose budget was cut in order to balance the General Fund for FY10.

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the Police Department to accept the Byrne Grant award of \$56,197 for use in partial support of its Crime Prevention Program.

Background

The Department's April 21, 2009 staff report provides details regarding the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. In summary, the JAG Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG Program funds can be used for a variety of efforts such as hiring law enforcement officers; supporting drug and gang task forces; funding crime prevention and domestic violence programs; and supporting courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives. The City of Woodland has been specified by the JAG Program as a disparate jurisdiction, thereby necessitating the joint application for the City's grant allocation. The grant awards for the joint applicants are listed in the table below:

| Jurisdiction Name | Individual Award |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| County of Yolo | \$ 85,000 |
| City of Davis | \$ 79,548 |
| City of West Sacramento | \$142,341 |
| City of Woodland | \$ 56,197 |
| Total Joint Allocation/Award | \$363,086 |

The Department will use its grant award to restore some funding to the Crime Prevention Program. In order to balance the General Fund for FY10, funding for the crime prevention program was eliminated, including two full-time positions. The grant award equals an estimated 37% of the personnel costs for this program for FY10 and would allow the Department to consider part-time staffing to continue some of its crime prevention efforts.

Discussion

The Department's Crime Prevention Program, previously staffed with two Crime Prevention Specialists, coordinated activities for the nearly 200 neighborhood watch groups in the City. In 2008, there were 42 meetings for new or renewed neighborhood watch groups. Program staff distributed more than 1,200 crime prevention brochures at more than 144 community meetings/events. Staff provided instruction, inspections, and car seats (as needed) to 139 residents. The crime prevention specialists also reviewed more than 115 development applications for design and security measures and reviewed 25 alcoholic beverage licenses. Program staff oversaw the Department chaplains and volunteers. The chaplains responded to 55 "call-outs" and the volunteers provided more than 535 volunteer hours.

Reductions in this program have significantly reduced the Department's proactive efforts in preventing crime and have negatively impacted its most visible and effective efforts in building and maintaining relationships with the City's residents. The National Night Out event this past August demonstrated the need for this program. Although the Department's sworn staff visited as many events as possible, communication with the block captains and members were kept at a minimum. The event, though still effective and successful, did not have its usual level for citizen participation, largely due to the lack of initiative and coordination previously provided by the Crime Prevention Specialists. This grant allocation would help bolster the funding needed for some of the personnel costs, thereby salvaging some semblance of its crime prevention efforts.

Fiscal Impact

The Department will use the grant award towards partial funding of the Crime Prevention Program with the primary focus in hiring part time staff. This is a one-time grant award and may be used for up to three years.

Public Contact

This item was included in the posting of the City Council agenda.

Alternative Courses of Action

1. Authorize the Police Department to accept the Byrne Grant award of \$56,197 for use in partial support of its Crime Prevention Program.
2. Cease further consideration of the grant award.

SUBJECT: Authorize the Department to Accept the 2009 Byrne Justice
Assistance Grant Award

PAGE: 3
ITEM:

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve Alternative No. 1.

Prepared by: Elle Murphy
Management Analyst

Reviewed by: Carey F. Sullivan
Chief of Police

Mark G. Deven
City Manager