



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1766, **Agenda Item #:** 14.

4/9/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) authorizing 1.0 full-time equivalent grant position funded from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 is available from U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

On December 14, 2017 - City Council voted 11-0 to authorize and execute the interlocal grant a sub award agreement with the University of Texas at Austin and voted 11-0 to negotiate and execute a sub award agreement with Measure Austin.

For More Information:

Troy Gay, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department, (512) 974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

This action will authorize the addition of 1.0 grant-funded Full Time Equivalent (FTC) to serve as the site coordinator for the City of Austin Riverside Togetherness Program. The site coordinator position is a grant requirement and was originally included as a temporary employee. The department has been unable to hire a qualified candidate to oversee the program as a temporary employee due to the reduced benefits; specifically healthcare and retirement.

Converting this position to a regular grant funded FTE should allow the City to hire and retain a coordinator for the duration of the project, which is funded through December 31, 2021. The site coordinator, in cooperation with key personnel and stakeholders, completes the following activities:

- Federally required quarterly performance measure reporting (data from all cross-sector partners)
- Acts as the primary point of contact for coordination activities
- Creates positive connections between police officers and community members that can begin to change what has historically been a strained relationship
- Ensures community participation in planning and implementation activities
- Facilitates public dialogues and consensus building to identify and resolve crime and related social issues

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- Engages the Riverside community, residents and stakeholders and encourages participation in developing and sustaining innovative crime prevention and revitalization efforts
 - Tracks and manages asset and unmet needs lists for the target area
 - Assists in organizing and leveraging community support and resources for the East Oltorf/Riverside planning area
 - Attends and takes meeting minutes at Austin Research Team (ART) meetings, responsible for finalizing agenda with ART leaders
 - Develops and releases program messaging and information requests in coordination with the City, Austin Police Department, City of Austin Public Information Office, and the ART
 - Develops social maps of informal leaders and their connections to the hot spot areas as a means to improve community efficacy/social capital
 - Acts as a liaison for code compliance/nuisance abatement issues within the target area
 - Assists with planning and implementing youth programs in cooperation with project text.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant or to the funding of this position. When the grant funds expire, the Austin Police Department's need for this position will be evaluated and the position may be eliminated.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.