



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 23-2354, **Agenda Item #:** 58.

9/21/2023

### Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the acceptance of grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division to implement the Austin Police Department Violence Against Women Investigative Project.

### Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

### Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$106,062.78 is available from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act Grant (VAWA) Program for the project period of October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. A City funding match of 30 percent is required and will be met by accounting for a portion of the salary of an existing City-funded sworn supervisor.

### Prior Council Action:

September 29, 2022 - City Council approved Resolution No. 20220929-043, which authorized accepting grant funding to implement the VAWA project, on consent on an 8-0 vote.

### For More Information:

Robin Henderson, Interim Police Chief, Austin Police Department, (512) 974-5030.

### Additional Backup Information:

The City Manager's Office reviewed this grant for alignment as directed by Resolution 20200611-096 and recommends approval.

This action will provide the required resolution needed by the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) to complete the award process related to \$106,062.78 in grant funding. The project period is October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. A City funding match (30 percent) is required and will be met by accounting for a portion of the salary of an existing City-funded sworn supervisor.

CJD Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding will allow the City to focus on proactive sex assault prevention as well as services for high-risk domestic violence victims. APD will hire five retired investigators with extensive violent crime investigations experience and trauma informed training to assist the APD Sex Crimes Unit. Specifically, the retirees will provide on-scene assistance with targeted operations (act as a force multiplier) at service industry locations identified as high at-risk for sexual assault and violence (plain clothes, directing sworn attention to persons of interest); assist with active casework and prosecutorial efforts; and track and collate performance data. Funding will also allow for the purchase of mobile cameras to establish around the clock surveillance for high-risk domestic violence cases.

The grantor requires a resolution approved by Council that includes items one through four below.

1. Authorization by your governing body for the submission of the application to the Public Safety Office

(PSO) that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;

2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, you must update the PSO should the official change during the grant period.); and
4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to PSO.