

Agenda Report

TO:

City Council

DATE:

May 21, 2001

FROM:

City Manager

SUBJECT:

Grant Agreement for the State of California, Office of Traffic Safety

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. City Council adopt a resolution in support of a grant agreement (Project Number PT 0106) with the State of California, Office of Traffic Safety.

2. City Council recognize and appropriate funds from the State of California, Office of Traffic Safety, in the amount of \$55,000, into the Police Department, Traffic Section, FY2001 operating budget, account 8101 101 402200.

BACKGROUND:

In 1966, Congress passed the National Highway Safety Act (NHWSA), which made available federal funds to reduce traffic collisions. These funds are passed on to the states. As a result, the State of California, Office of Traffic Safety, solicits requests for grants to address traffic safety problems every year. In the past, the Police Department has received such grants. This grant award requires no matching funds and cannot be used to hire new police personnel.

In a grant application to the State of California, Office of Traffic Safety, the Police Department put forth a proposal that targets the reduction of speed violations and an increase in traffic education through the combined efforts of "engineering, enforcement, and education." The Public Safety Committee approved this application for submission approximately eighteen months ago, and the funding is just now being provided.

In the area of "engineering", the Police Department and the Transportation Division of the Public Works Department will work jointly in evaluating collision data and determine whether street engineering may be improved upon.

In the area of "enforcement", the grant funds will be used for a computer-aided evaluation of high collision locations, which will lead to increase enforcement efforts with personnel being deployed to such areas as a means to combat and decrease collisions. Citizen complaints will be handled in a similar manner with a specific traffic

officer assigned to bring resolution to the problem. One of the highest causes of collisions, as well as one of the highest numbers of complaints, is excessive speed.

In the area of "education", the grant proposal will engage the community and build partnerships. With the absence of driver education in area high schools and a lack of education programs to the public, there is a need in the community to learn about traffic problems in the City.

Grant funds from the California Office of Traffic Safety will be utilized to purchase:

- Two speed trailers, which allow drivers to see the speed they area traveling, as well as compile a record of speeds on any given day. These trailers will be utilized to increase public awareness of speed violations and assist police officers during their enforcement efforts.
- 2) Seven hand held laser radar guns, which are used to measure the speed of specific cars in heavy traffic. These additional radar guns will supplement a future purchase of such devices, allowing each motorcycle officer to be assigned one. Enforcement efforts will be more effective with each police officer being assigned one of these units.
- 3) One laptop computer and one projector for an educational program for local Pasadena high schools and public meetings. This equipment will provide for the professional presentation of traffic matters to students and community members alike.
- 4) One desktop computer to make the Police Department's traffic office more effective and time responsive. Such a computer would allow for greater analysis of possible engineering improvements.
- 5) One video camera to video record traffic problems to assist in a diagnosis of traffic problems and to be utilized in all phases (engineering, enforcement and education), as police officers would be able to visually "show" the problem they could only describe in the past.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Police Department, Traffic Section, operating budget for FY 2001 will increase by \$55,000.

Respectfully submitted,

City Manager

Prepared by:

Rodney B. Uyeda, Lieutenant

Traffic Section

Special Operations Division

Approved by:

Bernard K. Melekian
Chief of Police

Director of Finance

Assistant City Attorney