

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

May 13, 2002

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Release of Funds from the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants (JAIBG) Program to the County of Los Angeles.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve the attached waiver form, authorizing the City Manager to transfer grant entitlements totaling \$50,098 available to the Pasadena Police Department, to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. The money will be used in conjunction with similar grant fund money from the City of Glendale and the City of Burbank to retain a deputy district attorney for vertical prosecution of juvenile offenders in the Pasadena Superior Court.

BACKGROUND

The Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program (JAIBG), administered by the State Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP), has made available \$22,598,300 to cities in the State of California. The City of Pasadena's grant entitlement is \$50,098 and requires a 10% matching fee. The funds are to be spent toward juvenile accountability within the juvenile justice system. Some specific purpose areas, include: hiring additional judges, probation officers, court-appointed defense attorneys, deputy district attorneys, establishing drug courts and drug testing programs, establishing information sharing programs, etc. Hiring additional police officers or using funds to supplement existing programs is not permitted under this grant.

The amount of money available to the vast majority of individual cities, Pasadena included, is insufficient to adequately fund approved purpose areas such as contracting for the services of a full-time deputy district attorney. As a result, there has been very little interest in the grant and, like Pasadena, virtually every city within Los Angeles

County elected not to individually apply. In cases where no grant application is made, the money reverts back to the State.

However, a provision of the grant offering allows cities, by way of “waiver”, to authorize the affiliated county to apply for their share of the grant funds should the city not elect to pursue the grant individually.

This is the fourth year of such a grant offering. During the last funding cycle of this grant, the City of Pasadena, with the City of Glendale and the City of Burbank, authorized the County of Los Angeles to take possession of their available grant money. With these funds, one Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney position was allocated for the sole purpose of vertical prosecution of juvenile offenders within the “tri-city” area. During the year, this prosecutor was utilized numerous times for case filings, expert criminal opinions, and gang related criminal investigative prosecutions by the Pasadena Police Department’s Youth and Family Services Unit.

For the current grant entitlements, the City of Pasadena, Glendale, and Burbank Police Departments are seeking to transfer the sum of their grants to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office. In return, the District Attorney’s Office will assign one deputy district attorney to exclusively serve these communities in prosecuting violent youthful offenders, and domestic violence cases in which children are negatively impacted.

If the City Council approves the prescribed OCJP waiver form (attached), the City of Pasadena will waive its right to receive the grant entitlement directly. The funds will be authorized to, and expended by, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office for the mutual benefit of both the City of Pasadena and the County of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office will assume responsibility for the administration of the program and will meet the 10% matching fee required by the terms of the grant.

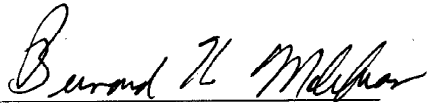
FISCAL IMPACT

This action will preclude the City from obtaining \$50,098 in funding from the State of California, Office of Criminal Justice Planning.

Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Approved by:

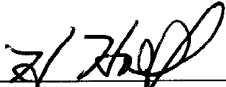


Bernard K. Melekian
Chief of Police

Concurred by:

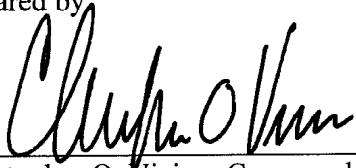


Jay M. Goldstone
Director of Finance



Hugh A. Halford
Assistant City Attorney

Prepared by:



Christopher O. Vicino, Commander
Special Operations Division