

# Agenda Report

To: City Council March 27, 2000

Through: Public Safety Committee

From: City Manager

Subject: Regional Helicopter Patrol with Contract Cities

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Manager be authorized to enter into a contract and Joint Powers Agreement with neighboring cities for the purpose of establishing a regional law enforcement helicopter patrol.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Police Department has been participating in discussions with several other San Gabriel Valley cities toward the implementation of a regional helicopter patrol program. During this past summer the Police Department conducted a 7-week trial helicopter program with the cities of Azusa, Monrovia, and West Covina. As a result of this trial program the concept of a regional helicopter patrol program was validated and found to be both effective and valuable to the participating cities.

The cities of Arcadia, Azusa, Covina, Glendora, Monrovia, and West Covina are now desirous of contracting with the Police Department for police helicopter service. Their objective is to obtain both helicopter patrol and response to specific incidents within their communities. Initially they want to start the program on a limited basis of two shifts per week. This program will use an additional helicopter during operational hours and will not reduce the current level of helicopter patrol provided to Pasadena.

The Police Department is in the process of preparing another helicopter for police use. This OH-58 aircraft was obtained from the Department of Defense through the 1033 Surplus Property Program. Because the helicopter was acquired through this program federal regulations are very specific about reimbursement for flight time. The regulations mandate that any charge for the operation of the aircraft is limited to an amount that recovers the direct operating cost of the aircraft. In addition, a joint program of this nature must be funded through a common treasury.

A Joint Powers Agreement between the participating cities will satisfy the common treasury requirement. The Board of Directors for the Joint Powers Authority would consist of the City Manager/Administrators of the participating cities. An Executive Committee consisting of the Police Chief's from the participating cities will exercise the authority to develop and administer policies, programs, priorities, organizational structure(s), staffing, training, equipment, facilities and budgets as may be required for the effective operation of the program. The City of Pasadena will manage the treasury of the JPA.

Staffing will be comprised of officers from the participating departments. Observers will be solicited from all participating agencies. The Police Department will provide observer training for officers from participating departments. This training will consist of 16 hours of classroom sessions and three shifts of airborne training. The participating departments will set their own criteria for participants in the training and make the personnel available for training. At the conclusion of the training program the participating departments will select their personnel for assignment to the regional program.

In the beginning of the program some of the personnel may be assigned on an overtime basis. As the program progresses it will be possible to staff aircrews on an on duty status. The personnel costs will be reimbursed to the participating agencies by the joint treasury.

The cost has been established at \$330 per hour, billed by the tenth of an hour. This fee is based on the operating cost of the helicopter, the salary-benefit and burden rate of the pilot and observer, and a percentage of the Internal Service Charges of the Helicopter Section (based on the average flight hours per year). Wages paid to employees of participating cities, including Pasadena, will be reimbursed from the common treasury.

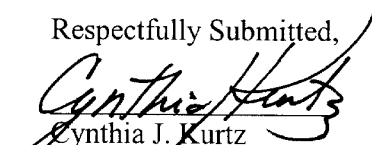
The income from the regional program to the JPA is estimated at \$155,000 per year. The additional flight time for the Police Department Helicopter Section will be approximately 477 hours. The estimated income to Pasadena for these flight hours, including administrative fees, is \$85,000. Of this, approximately \$61,000 would be operational expense for the aircraft and the remaining \$24,000 for administrative expenses. The funds related to the operational expense of the aircraft would be placed in the LA IMPACT fund. The income related to the administrative expenses would be returned to the General Fund. The remainder of the income to the JPA (\$70,000) will be distributed to the participating agencies to reimburse personnel costs on an actual cost basis.

Initially the program will be operated through the LA IMPACT account. The process for billing for services and paying for aircraft operating costs is already established in this account. As indicated in the previous paragraph the aircraft operating expense related to this program is estimated at \$61,000 for the first year of operation.


**FISCAL IMPACT**

This action will result in revenues of up to \$61,000 to the Police Department, LA IMPACT Fund, and \$24,000 to the General Fund.

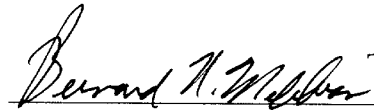
Respectfully Submitted,

  
Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

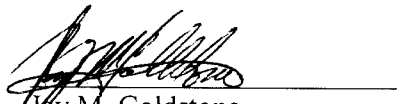
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