



REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: February 13, 2024

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE
TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE SAN
DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR THE
OPERATION STONEGARDEN GRANT

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: POLICE

SUMMARY:

Issues:

1. Should the City Council approve the Police Department's participation with the San Diego Sheriff's Department (SDSD) in the Operation Stonegarden Grant for the reimbursement of expenses related to enforcement of regional crime with a border nexus?
2. Should the City Council authorize the Chief of Police to sign a MOA with the San Diego Sheriff's Department for the Operation Stonegarden Grant which will reimburse personnel overtime and equipment expenses related to enforcement of regional crime with a border nexus?

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Approve the Police Department's participation with the San Diego Sheriff's Department for the Operation Stonegarden Grant, which will reimburse expenses related to the enforcement of regional crime with a border nexus.
2. Authorize the Chief of Police to sign a MOA with the San Diego Sheriff's Department for the Operation Stonegarden Grant, which will reimburse

personnel overtime and equipment expenses related to the enforcement of regional crime with a border nexus.

Fiscal Impact:

There will be no fiscal impact for the City of La Mesa. This grant will allow the Police Department to receive full reimbursement for the cost of overtime, vehicle mileage, and equipment up to \$266,000 within the context of the grant. The reimbursements will consist of up to \$190,000 for operation funding and up to \$76,000 for approved equipment funding. The operational funding consists of \$170,300 in operation overtime, \$10,048 for fringe benefits, and \$9,652 for mileage costs. The \$76,000 in approved equipment funding consists of two handheld narcotics analyzers. Staff work to oversee the grant will not result in added expenditures.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Maintain a community where residents and visitors feel safe.

BACKGROUND:

Operation Stonegarden was established by the United States Department of Homeland Security in 2005. The intent of this grant is to enhance cooperation and coordination among federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement in an effort to reduce border related state crimes. The Stonegarden grant is designed to address crime and is not immigration enforcement related (MOA Section 4.2). The La Mesa Police Department shall comply with the California Values Act (SB 54) and department policy when conducting Stonegarden Operations. This is a competitive grant sponsored by the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) which is awarding approximately \$8.7 million dollars toward combating border violence in the San Diego Region.

DISCUSSION:

La Mesa has three major freeways running through it with multiple on and off ramps. It also has several trolley stations that have a direct link to the US/Mexico border. These transportation corridors have the potential to bring border related crime (drug smuggling and human trafficking) into the surrounding areas, including La Mesa.

This grant would allow officers, detectives, dispatchers and sergeants from the Police Department to work with other police personnel throughout the County on reimbursable overtime to address border related criminal activity, which affects La Mesa and the entire county. Some operations may take place within La Mesa. Most other San Diego County

police agencies are participating with the SDSD on this grant. Staffing Operation Stonegarden will be on an overtime basis only and not affect the normal daily operations within the Police Department.

This grant process involves each local agency submitting their overtime requests to the SDSD. The Sheriff's Department will forward the San Diego County request to the State Administrative Agency (SAA) who will then submit the reimbursement request to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

On grant overtime, La Mesa Police personnel would normally work with SDSD and other allied local, state, and federal agency personnel conducting activities similar to:

- High visibility enforcement and traffic stop activity in high intensity drug trafficking areas along the beaches and land borders.
- Offer ground support for aerial flights during the day and night.
- High visibility criminal interdiction and/or covert interdiction operations.
- Specific operations targeting urban and rural border areas of San Diego County.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the Police Department's participation and entering into a MOA with the San Diego Sheriff's Department for the Operation Stonegarden Grant, which will reimburse expenses related to addressing regional crime with a border nexus.

Staff Reference: Lieutenant Matthew Conlon

Reviewed by:



Greg Humora
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



Ray Sweeney
Chief of Police

- Attachments:
- A. OPSG Worksheet / La Mesa Grant Fund Allocation (Exhibit A)
 - B. FY2022 Standard Assurances (Exhibit B)
 - C. 2022 OPSG Required Federal Grant Provisions (Exhibit C)
 - D. 2022 OPSG Byrd Anti-Lobbying Certification Form (Exhibit D)
 - E. Memorandum of Agreement

F. Resolution