



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

DATE: September 24, 2024

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE OFFICE OF
TRAFFIC SAFETY SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT
PROGRAM FOR FY- 25

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: POLICE

SUMMARY:

Issues:

Should the City Council accept and appropriate funds from the Office of Traffic Safety FY-25, in the amount of \$115,000, for the education, prevention, and enforcement of traffic laws related to primary collision factors and driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, for overtime, equipment and training expenses incurred during the 12- month program?

Recommendation:

In line with Vision Zero, staff recommends that the City Council accept and appropriate funds from the Office of Traffic Safety FY-25, in the amount of \$115,000, for the education, prevention, and enforcement of traffic laws related to primary collision factors and driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, for overtime, equipment and training expenses incurred during the 12- month program as outlined in this staff report. The funds will be appropriated in Fund 213, Public Safety Grants.

Fiscal Impact:

Participation by the La Mesa Police Department will be limited to paid overtime for Police Sergeant(s), Police Officer(s), Community Service Officer(s), Downtown Operations Assistant(s), Communication Supervisor(s), and Police Dispatcher(s) for selected traffic enforcement operations during the twelve-month period of October 1, 2024, thru September 30, 2025. Monies will also be used for specified equipment purchases and training in drug and alcohol-impaired driving enforcement.

Total costs are not to exceed the final grant award of \$115,000 and will be reimbursed by billing the Office of Traffic Safety. With City Council approval, the maximum amount that the Office of Traffic Safety would reimburse the City of La Mesa would be \$115,000. The funds will be appropriated and expended from the Public Safety Grant (213) Fund.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Maintain a community where residents and visitors feel safe.

BACKGROUND:

On September 25, 2018, the La Mesa City Council approved a resolution to adopt a Vision Zero Plan to reduce traffic fatalities in the City to zero by 2025.

In January 2024, the La Mesa Police Department applied for this grant through the Office of Traffic Safety. This is a competitive grant that many cities apply for. It was awarded to the City of La Mesa for enforcement related to driving under the influence, speed, distracted driving, and pedestrian/bicycle safety. The goal is to improve public safety in the above areas by using selective enforcement techniques to address problems.

The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program aims to reduce the number of persons killed or injured in collisions related to the listed enforcement areas. This grant is designed to use local police resources within their primary jurisdictions on an overtime basis to conduct "best practice" strategies, including community education, DUI checkpoints, speed enforcement, distracted driver enforcement, and pedestrian safety enforcement. These operations will occur at various times during a twelve-month period from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

The La Mesa Police Department has 70 sworn Officers, and the La Mesa Traffic Unit is fully staffed with one Sergeant and five Officers. Over the last two years, La Mesa has experienced a slight decrease in fatal collisions, from six to four, three of which involved alcohol and/or drugs.

In 2022, the City of La Mesa experienced 25 crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs, resulting in 31 injuries and two deaths. In 2023, the City of La Mesa experienced 32 crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs, resulting in 39 injuries. During the grant period of 2022 to 2023, we have had 32 alcohol or drug-related collisions resulting in 37 injuries. We have had only one fatality involving speed and alcohol/drugs as factors. In 2022 and 2023, speed was the leading primary collision factor, while Driving Under the Influence/ Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUI/DUID) was second. DUI/DUID impairment was one of the primary factors in numerous cases, which have been forwarded to the District Attorney for prosecution.

During this grant's twelve-month enforcement program, the La Mesa Police Department will be scheduling approximately three (3) DUI checkpoints, eleven (11) Driving Under the Influence saturation patrols, four (4) "Know Your Limit" DUI education campaigns, eight (8) enforcement operations focused on, but not limited to, primary collision factor "PCF" violations, two (2) enforcement operations focused on bicyclists and pedestrian violations, one (1) enforcement

operation focused on motorcycle safety and two (2) enforcement operations focusing on violations of “distracted driving.” All of these operations will be conducted in the City of La Mesa on an overtime basis, where the officers will work above and beyond the normal patrol staffing levels. In addition, we will participate in a county-wide law enforcement collaborative focused on impaired drivers all over the County of San Diego. In doing so, La Mesa police officers will partner with allied agencies to staff DUI checkpoints and driving under the influence saturation patrols in various cities at least once a month. The grant will also fund two radar speed feedback signs, which will be deployed in high-complaint areas in the city.

CONCLUSION:


Staff recommends that the City Council approve the acceptance of this grant and appropriation of the related funds.

Reviewed by:



Greg Humora
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



Ray Sweeney
Chief Of Police