



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

DATE: July 8, 2025

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 IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$175,000

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: POLICE

SUMMARY:

Issues:

Should the City Council authorize 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 in the Amount of \$175,000?

Recommendation:

Approve a 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 in the Amount of \$175,000?

Fiscal Impact:

The grant is cost reimbursement, requiring the City to pay costs upfront and receiving a reimbursement for allowable costs associated with the grant activities up to \$175,000.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Maintain a community where residents and visitors feel safe.
- Promote a high quality of life that current and future generations can afford to call home.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, United States Department of Homeland Security established Operation Stonegarden 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 focused on addressing crime and is not related to immigration enforcement, as stated in the Memorandum of Agreement (Section 4.2).

The La Mesa Police Department will conduct all Stonegarden operations in compliance with the California Values Act (SB 54) and applicable department policies. This is a competitive grant sponsored by the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), awarding over eight million dollars toward combating border-related violence within California.

DISCUSSION:

The City of La Mesa has been authorized to receive Stonegarden Operations grant funding of \$175,000. The operational funding consists of up to \$157,600 in operational overtime, \$12,056 for fringe benefits, and \$5,344 for mileage costs.

La Mesa has three major freeways running through it and five trolley stations that can directly link individuals to the US/Mexico border. These transportation corridors have the potential to bring border-related crime (e.g. drug smuggling, 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. The majority of the operations funded for La Mesa Police personnel will take place within and/or surrounding areas of the City of La Mesa. Most other San Diego County police agencies also participate with the San Diego Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's Department) on this grant. Staffing Operation Stonegarden will be on an overtime basis only and will not affect the normal daily operations within the Police Department.

This grant process involves each local agency submitting their overtime requests to the Sheriff's Department. 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 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

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On grant funded overtime, La Mesa Police personnel would typically work with the Sheriff's Department 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 within the region
- 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 areas of San Diego County

All overtime will be reimbursed up to \$157,600, including an additional \$12,056 for personnel fringe benefits.

No additional equipment is scheduled for purchase under this grant during this cycle.

CONCLUSION:

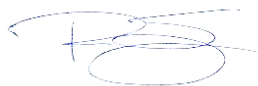
Staff recommends that the City Council approve the Police Department's participation and entry into an MOA with the San Diego Sheriff's Department for the Operation Stonegarden Grant, which will reimburse expenses related to addressing regional crime with a border nexus.

Reviewed by:



Greg Humora
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



Ray Sweeney
Chief of Police



Amanda Lee
Assistant City Manager

- Exhibits:
- A. FY 2024 OPSG Budget Worksheet
 - B. FY 2024 OPSG Standard Assurances
 - C. FY 2024 OPSG Required Federal Grant Provisions
 - D. FY 2024 OPSG Byrd Anti-Lobbying Certification Form
 - E. FY 2024 OPSG Operations Order
- Attachments:
- A. OPSG Resolution 2024-25
 - B. FY 2024 OPSG Memorandum of Agreement