



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

DATE: November 22, 2022

SUBJECT: Proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between
the San Diego Sheriff's Department and the La Mesa
Police Department for the Operation Stonegarden Grant

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: Police Department

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:

1. 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 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 is no fiscal impact to 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 \$279,000 within the context of the grant. The reimbursements will consist of up to \$160,000 for operational funding and up to \$119,000 for approved equipment funding. The operational funding consists of \$147,000 in operation overtime, \$8,673 for fridge benefits, and \$4,327 for mileage costs. The approved equipment funding consists of \$74,000 for a fully equipped marked patrol unit, \$40,000 for a mobile License Plate Reader (LPR) system to mount on the marked unit, and \$5,000 for a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera which will be mounted on the driver's side spotlight of the marked unit. Staff work to oversee the grant will not result in added expenditures.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Safe community

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 \$9.2 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.

The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the MOA as to content and form.

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.

Reviewed by:



Greg Humora
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



Ray Sweeney
Chief of Police

- Attachments:
- A. La Mesa Grant Fund Allocation (Exhibit A).
 - B. FY2021 Grant Assurances (Exhibit B).
 - C. 2021 OPSG Byrd Anti-Lobbying Certification Form (Exhibit C).
 - D. MOA
 - E. Resolution
 - F. FY2021 OPSG Agency Allocation