

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

October 20, 2009

TO: City Council

FROM: Tim Ness, City Manager

Prepared by: Danny R. Macagni, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: APPROPRIATING FUNDING UNDER THE 2009 RECOVERY EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (JAG) PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the appropriation of **\$249,940** to be allocated to the Santa Maria Police Department for the Police Officer Retention Program via an interlocal agreement between the City of Santa Maria and the cities of Santa Barbara, Lompoc, Goleta, Carpinteria, and the County of Santa Barbara under the provisions of the 2009 Recovery Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) Program, in concert with the terms and conditions contained therein.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 signed into law February 17, 2009, the Recovery Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program was authorized. Funding under the Recovery JAG Program includes several different aspects from the regular JAG Program, including an emphasis on job creation and job retention. Funding is available to local jurisdictions based on a population formula and Part 1 violent crime statistics. Any law enforcement agency that was eligible for funding under the regular JAG funding is eligible.

In addition to fulfilling program-specific purposes, projects funded under the Recovery Act should be designed to further one or more of the general purposes of the Recovery Act, which are to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery; to assist those most impacted by the recession; to provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health, to invest in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long term economic benefits; and to stabilize state and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive State and local tax increases. There are no matching funds required.

As Council is aware, State funding under the Citizen's Options for Public Safety (COPS)/Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Program was reduced by \$145,000. These funds are used to pay for two full-time police officer positions and the reduction

will result in the loss of one full time position. The availability of the Recovery JAG funds will enable our City to retain this one police officer position until JAG funds have been exhausted which is estimated to be a two year period.

Based upon our population, the City of Santa Maria is the agency that receives the highest allocation within Santa Barbara County. However, under the JAG legislation a city that receives one and one-half times more funding than the county is in a funding disparity and the local entity is no longer eligible for a direct award. All disparate jurisdictions are required to reach an agreement on the distribution of funds and apply with a single joint application with their county.

On April 13, 2009, public notice was served that the Santa Barbara Police Department serving as the application/fiscal agent, in conjunction with other jurisdictions within Santa Barbara County intended to acquire JAG funding for law enforcement related purposes. Questions and public comment were afforded to citizens and community organizations through the public notice.

The Police Department is requesting to utilize the 2009 JAG allocation for the Police Officer Retention Program and to supplement the funding lost due to the reduction of State COPS funding to retain one (1) "E" step police officer position until funds are exhausted.

DISCUSSION:

The Police Department, with concurrence of the City Manager and City Council, has made a commitment to seek supplemental funding sources for the purpose of procuring technology and equipment. This approach continues to be necessary and appropriate in light of the fiscal constraints the City could be facing. It is recommended that the City continue to pursue additional sources of supplemental funding from various County, State and Federal grant programs to support these efforts.

Alternatives:

In reality, there are no reasonable alternatives to this recommendation other than to decline the grant award. However, to do so would result in the loss of funding of one (1) "E" step police officer position and create the need for a General Fund expense, or loss of the position. Failure to avail ourselves of this opportunity would negatively impact the department's ability to provide community oriented services.

Fiscal Considerations:

This is one time funding under the JAG Recovery Program. Staff anticipates this funding stream for the above stated purpose to last for an estimated period of two years; *not including any additional increases in salary and/or benefits.*

Impact to the Community:

The increase in demand for Police Services is a community driven function. In these tough economic times, we must continue to take advantage of Federal funding

opportunities in order to maintain the most efficient, cost-effective service to the community. The obvious impact to the community would be positive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DR Macagni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

DANNY R. MACAGNI
Chief of Police