



MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance Committee

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Chief of Police

DATE: February 19, 2013

RE: Consideration - Two Grant Opportunities from the US Department of Justice

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department, in its pursuit of excellence and adherence to its mission statement, is seeking funding opportunities that would directly benefit the citizens of Elizabeth City. Particularly areas of the City that have been most affected by the influence of gangs and other criminal activity have been given thoughtful consideration, as well as listed as a top priority of the Vision 20/20 Steering Committee. There are several funding opportunities currently available through the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Two grants in particular would benefit the communities of Elizabeth City that have been most affected by crime and would thereby enhance the quality of life for the citizens living in these communities. It is with great prudence that the Police Department seeks out grant opportunities that support the City's mission of providing the highest level of professionalism to the citizens we serve.

ANALYSIS:

Currently, the US Department of Justice is accepting grant applications for the "Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program" grant and the "Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program" grant. First, the Byrne grant focuses on revitalization of a "hot spot" area (geographically small/encompassing only several blocks) of the City that has a crime rate disproportionate with other parts of the City. The Police Department has identified a section of Elizabeth City that these grant funds would benefit and is currently in the process of extrapolating crime data supporting their claim. The Byrne grant awards up to 1 million dollars over a 15-month project time, with \$150,000

awarded for the planning phase of this project. It requires no match on the part of the City. Second, the Gang Reduction grant focuses on funding to assist the Police Department in reducing gun violence and addressing gangs and crimes in targeted neighborhoods. The Gang Reduction grant awards funding up to \$150,000 and also requires no match on the part of the City. Both of these grants require cross-sector partnerships as part of the application process. The Elizabeth City Police Department has identified River City Community Development Corporation and Elizabeth City State University to serve as partners. The Police Department would be the fiscal agent/law enforcement agency responsible for the completion of the grant and the partners would play a role during the planning/implementation of the grant, if awarded. The River City Community Development Corporation is an asset because of its community enhancement abilities and Youthbuild Mentoring Program. Elizabeth City State University would serve a vital role as "researcher" for the grant, if the initial applications are accepted upon review.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, recommend that the Council authorize the Elizabeth City Police Department to pursue grant opportunities offered by the US Department of Justice for the purpose of obtaining funds to assist in reducing crime and the fear of crime in our communities.

RCO/vdw