



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

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

DATE: February 16, 2015

REF: Consideration ~ Authorization to Accept Grant Award from Governor's Crime Commission for Overtime Funding

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department, in an effort to enhance its technology/equipment program and provide residents with the highest quality of services available, is continuously seeking grant opportunities that would benefit both the department and citizens served. In September 2014, the Department received approval for one additional full-time sworn police officer through the COPS Hiring grant program, with a focus on "violence reduction" throughout the city. In keeping with this mission to reduce violence in our community, the Department subsequently applied for ~ and was selected to receive ~ special overtime grant funding from the Governor's Crime Commission for the purpose of combatting drugs, violence, and other criminal activity associated with gang activity. The grant award notification, dated February 4, 2015, states the Elizabeth City Police Department is awarded funding in the amount of \$25,000. The grant, entitled 2015- Elizabeth City Police Department – Eastern Gang Task Force Initiative, **requires no matching funding on the part of the City** and as soon as the grant is officially accepted the Elizabeth City Police Department may begin use of the grant monies.

ANALYSIS:

The North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission recently announced its 2015 funding priorities and opened its grant application process, beginning November 1, 2014 and ending January 31, 2015. The Governor's Crime Commission placed special emphasis on grant proposals which sought to enhance anti-gang efforts and reduce crime and the

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fear of crime in communities throughout the State of North Carolina. The Governor's Crime Commission serves as the chief advisory body to the governor and the secretary of Public Safety on crime and justice issues. Its chief initiatives include safer schools, gang prevention and intervention, partnership with veterans and ongoing support for the local law enforcement community.

The Elizabeth City Police Department received notification on February 10, 2015 that it had been selected to receive overtime monies to fund special operations to reduce gun violence and suppress gangs and drug crimes in Elizabeth City, in conjunction with other agencies in eastern North Carolina including Rocky Mount, Kinston, and Wilson Police Departments. Special operations will include addressing crime in hot spot areas through pro-active means including greater visibility, directed patrol and other law enforcement methods proven effective in the fight against crime. Further, the overtime funding awarded will supplement the department's regular budgeted overtime line item and use of additional resources will greatly benefit the residents of Elizabeth City and assist in addressing quality of life issues, thereby enhancing overall police services.

In a notification letter dated February 4, 2015, the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission notified the Elizabeth City Police Department it had been awarded grant funding to be used for overtime/special operations associated with gang enforcement and suppression.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, recommend that the City Council accept the terms of conditions of the grant from the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, entitled 2015 – Elizabeth City Police Department – Eastern Gang Task Force Initiative, in the amount of \$25,000, as described herein.

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