



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

DATE: September 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Acceptance and appropriation of the Office of Traffic Safety Grant for the 2020-2021 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: Police Department

SUMMARY:

Issues:

Should the City Council accept and appropriate funds from the 2020-2021 California Office of Traffic Safety Grant to pay for overtime and training expenses incurred during the twelve (12) month Selective Traffic Enforcement Program?

Recommendations:

Staff recommends that the Council accepts and appropriates funds from the 2020-2021 California Office of Traffic Safety Grant for a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program in the amount of \$96,500.00 for overtime and training expenses incurred during the twelve (12) month program as outlined in the staff report. The funds will be appropriated in fund 213, Public Safety Grants.

Fiscal Impact:

Participation by the La Mesa Police Department will be limited to paid overtime for Police Sergeant(s), Police Officer(s), Community Service Officer(s), Downtown Operations Assistant(s), Communication Supervisor(s) and Police Dispatcher(s) for selected traffic enforcement operations during the twelve (12) month period of October 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2021. Monies will also be used for specified equipment purchases and training in the enforcement of drug and alcohol impaired driving.

Total costs are not to exceed the final grant award of \$96,500.00 and will be reimbursed by billing the Office of Traffic Safety. With City Council approval, the maximum amount that the Office of Traffic Safety would reimburse the City of La

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Mesa would be \$96,500.00 The funds will be appropriated and expended from the Public Safety Grant (213) Fund.

City's Strategic Goal:

Safe community.

BACKGROUND:

On September 25, 2018, the La Mesa City Council approved a resolution to adopt a Vision Zero plan to reduce traffic fatalities to zero in the City of La Mesa by the year 2025.

In January of 2020, the La Mesa Police Department applied for this grant through the Office of Traffic Safety. This is a competitive Grant that many cities apply for and it was awarded to the City of La Mesa for driving under the influence, speed, distracted driving and pedestrian/ bicycle safety enforcement. The goal is to improve public safety in the above areas by using selective enforcement techniques to address the problem.

The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program's overall goal is to reduce the number of persons killed and/or injured in collisions related to the listed enforcement areas. This grant is designed to use local police resources within their primary jurisdictions on an overtime basis to conduct "best practice" strategies, including community education, DUI checkpoints, speed enforcement, distracted driver enforcement and pedestrian safety enforcement. All of these operations will take place at various times during a twelve (12) month period from October 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2021.

During the same period in 2017, the most recent year with complete data available, the La Mesa Police Department investigated a total of 72 traffic collisions involving alcohol, resulting in 29 injuries, and an additional 11 collisions involving the use of illicit drugs which resulted in 4 injuries. The number one collision factor associated with these collisions was driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs. There were 40 collisions where speed was the primary collision factor resulting in 52 injuries, and 81 collisions involving distracted drivers, which resulted in 65 injuries and 1 fatality.

During this grant's twelve (12) month enforcement program, the La Mesa Police Department will be scheduling approximately two (2) DUI checkpoints, twelve (12) Driving Under the Influence saturation patrols, eight (8) "Know Your Limit" DUI education campaigns, ten (10) enforcement operations targeting, but not limited to, primary collision factor "PCF" violations, five (5) enforcement operations targeting bicyclists and pedestrian violations, one (1) enforcement operation targeting motorcycle safety and four (4) enforcement operations focusing on violations of "distracted driving." All of these operations will be conducted in the City of La Mesa on an overtime basis

where the officers will be working above and beyond the normal patrol staffing levels. In addition, we will participate in a county-wide law enforcement collaborative targeting drunk drivers all over the County of San Diego. In doing so La Mesa Police Officers will partner with allied agencies to staff DUI checkpoints and Driving Under the Influence Saturation Patrols, in various cities, at least once a month. Operations may be impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and any virtual training that can be conducted will replace in person presentations.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the acceptance of this grant and appropriation of the related funds.

Staff reference: Captain Ray Sweeney

Reviewed by:

Respectfully submitted by:



Greg Humora
City Manager



Matt Nicholass
Acting Chief of Police

Attachments: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-__

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA
AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF A GRANT
FROM THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY TO CONDUCT A
LOCAL TRAFFIC SAFETY, DUI ENFORCEMENT AND AWARENESS
PROGRAM BY APPROVING THE ADDITION OF THE GRANT FUNDS TO THE
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2018, the La Mesa City Council approved a resolution to adopt a Vision Zero plan to reduce traffic fatalities to zero in the City of La Mesa by the year 2025;

WHEREAS, intoxicated, distracted and speeding drivers create significant traffic safety problems;

WHEREAS, the California Office of Traffic Safety has awarded to the City of La Mesa grant funds for a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program for Local Law Enforcement Agencies;

WHEREAS, the participating law enforcement agency is the La Mesa Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of La Mesa has agreed that increasing selective traffic enforcement is an important element in improving public safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Mesa, that the City Council authorizes the acceptance and appropriation of a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety, in the amount of \$96,500.00, to conduct a twelve (12) month Selective Traffic Enforcement Program; provided, however, that if the actual revenue received from the source specified should be more or less than the amount set forth herein, that the appropriations shall be adjusted to equal the amount actually received. The appropriation will be in Fund 213, Public Safety Grants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the addition of the grant funds to Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget in Fund 213, Public Safety Grants.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Special meeting of the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, held the 15th day of September 2020, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, MEGAN WIEGELMAN, City Clerk of the City of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2020-__, duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City on the date and by the vote therein recited.

MEGAN WIEGELMAN, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)