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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Bradley C. Osgood – Chief of Police

DATE: October 19, 2015

SUBJECT: FY 2015 State Homeland Security Exercise Funds Application

Recommendation

Through the City Manager, authorize the Police Department to apply for grant funding through the New Hampshire Department of Safety - Homeland Security and Emergency Management Exercise and Evaluation Program. Said funding to be used to create an exercise designed to assess and evaluate the Police Department's response to a critical incident/active shooter located at Concord Hospital.

Background

The Concord Police Department continues discussions with Concord Hospital regarding the potential threat of an active shooter in their environment. All hospital personnel attend training regarding their expected responses as well as how law enforcement intends to respond given this critical event.

In addition, Concord Hospital has recently revised its "Code Silver" policy which outlines their roles during an active shooter event. Concord Hospital has approached the Concord Police Department and requested we exercise in a joint fashion, not only the initial law enforcement and staff response, but the Mass Casualty Incident operational plan with the Concord Fire Department, as well as the tactical response from the Central New Hampshire Special Operations Unit.

The intention of conducting a drill is to exercise the response and evaluate the deficiencies and shortcomings that present during the training scenario. It also exercises interoperability between law enforcement, emergency services, and civilian staff.

Discussion

This grant will allow for the Concord Police Department to fund costs associated with conducting a large scale exercise. Overtime expenses for personnel, supplies, evaluators and food expenses are just a few items that require additional money that is not available through

traditional budgetary accounts. There is no requirement for any matching city funds to be obligated for this training exercise, and it is anticipated that no city funds will be utilized.

Coordinating an exercise needs appropriate funding resources not only to ensure a successful event, but to entice other stakeholders in the community to actively participate knowing their financial obligation is being satisfied via grant funding. This particular venue, a hospital, is a preferred location by Homeland Security, and has the full support of the hospital administration.

As the grant applicant, if awarded, the City of Concord would benefit greatly by conducting an exercise with one of the City's largest private employers. This exercise would also be opened up to outside public safety agencies, including the Central NH Special Operations Unit, for full participation and input.