



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Daniel L. Andrus, Fire Chief

DATE: August 30, 2018

SUBJECT: Report to Accompany a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager or His Designee to apply for funding through the New Hampshire Project First Grant Program

Recommendation

Accept this report and approve the resolution as stated above.

Background

The New Hampshire Department of Safety, in conjunction with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) has made available grant funding through a program known as Project First. The intention of Project First is to facilitate “the use of first responders to link individuals affected by opioid use disorder to the road of recovery and treatment services.” (Project First Grant Guidance Document, page 3)

There are several components of the grant, including responder training, community outreach, and data gathering to assess program performance. The Fire Department is well into the second years of a program with Riverbend Community Mental Health for the management of mental health emergencies. This partnership has been very valuable in developing an innovative approach with community agencies to address mental health and public safety needs. The Fire Department is also actively involved with the Capital Areas Substance Use Disorder Leadership Team and Granite United Way’s Public Health Advisory Council. The Fire Department has considerable skill and experience in this type of collaborative relationship and is well positioned for grant funding to ameliorate substance abuse.

The timeline for this grant is very aggressive. The Fire Department received verbal notification from the State in mid-July and the application deadline is August 30th.

Discussion

Due to the time constraints imposed by the application deadline for the grant, the City Manager’s designee will apply for funds for purposes which are consistent with the best interests of the City of Concord. The City Council will be advised of any applications or awards and will have the opportunity to appropriate any funds that are received as the result of this grant application.