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Chief of Police

# City of Concord, New Hampshire

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## **REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM:** Gregory S. Taylor – Deputy Chief of Police

**DATE:** June 19, 2019

**SUBJECT:** 2019 Adverse Childhood Experience Response Team (ACERT) Program

### **Recommendation**

Accept and appropriate the amount of up to fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00) in funding provided through the Concord Adverse Childhood Experience Response Team Program and administered through the Merrimack County Child Advocacy Center. Funds from this program will be used by the Department to pay for overtime expenses incurred by the Department as its members participate in ACERT Program activities.

### **Background**

The Concord Police Department has played an integral role in the development of an Adverse Childhood Experience Response Team Program (ACERT) in the Concord area. This program is designed to establish a team approach to serve and offer resources to children who have been exposed to violence. ACERT teams include members of law enforcement, mental health providers, social workers and crisis counselors. The team will respond to incidents where children may have been exposed to violence, assess the situation and determine next steps that can be taken for the child, such as support groups, mental health counseling, early childhood education, or child-parent psychotherapy.

### **Discussion**

The Merrimack County Advocacy Center will serve as the fiscal agent and primary administrator of the Concord ACERT program utilizing funding provided by the Granite United Way. Concord Police Department overtime costs will be reimbursed through the Merrimack County Advocacy Center. ACERT programs have recently proven highly successful in other parts of the state and country, and the Concord Police Department has played a significant role in bringing such a program to this community. It is anticipated that this program will provide a much needed benefit to those children who are unfortunately exposed to violence.

It is recommended that the City Council accept and appropriate this funding.