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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John G. Thomas – Deputy Chief of Police

DATE: July 28, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 New Hampshire Children’s Health Foundation Grant Program

Recommendation

Through the City Manager, authorize the Police Department to apply for grant funding through the New Hampshire Children’s Health Foundation Grant Program. Funds from this grant will be used by the Department to augment our ACERT Program funding and allow for the purchase of ballistic vests for ACERT Team members.

Background

The Department’s ACERT Program has been highly successful in offering services to those children in the community who have been exposed to violence. Our ACERT team includes members of law enforcement, mental health providers, social workers and crisis counselors. The team responds to incidents where children may have been exposed to violence, assesses the situation and determines next steps that can be taken for the child, such as support groups, mental health counseling, early childhood education, or child-parent psychotherapy. Members of these teams may be placed in volatile settings when interacting with some of these children and parents. This grant will allow for the purchase of ballistic vests to be worn by team members while performing ACERT functions.

Discussion

This grant will allow for the purchase of three ballistic vests to be utilized by ACERT Team members during ACERT home visits and subsequent follow-up. There is no City match required for this grant program, and the funding provided by the New Hampshire Children’s Health Foundation Grant Program will cover the entire cost of these ballistic vests.