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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John G. Thomas – Deputy Chief of Police

DATE: June 12, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023/2024 Law Enforcement Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative

Recommendation

Through the City Manager, authorize the Police Department to apply for grant funding through the New Hampshire Department of Safety – Law Enforcement Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative. Funds from this grant will be used by the Department to pay for overtime expenses incurred by the Department as it implements enhanced strategies in combating the illegal drug/opioid crisis facing the City and surrounding communities. Authorization is requested to apply for up to \$77,000 in grant funding through this initiative.

Background

The New Hampshire Department of Safety has grant funding available under the Law Enforcement Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative and the Concord Police Department is eligible to apply for this funding. This grant provides law enforcement agencies funding for overtime costs associated with identifying, investigating, and apprehending individuals and/or organizations that are involved in opioid/fentanyl and other illegal drug use and trafficking. The Department seeks to apply for this funding in order to augment its current efforts in combatting illegal drug usage in the City and surrounding communities.

Discussion

This grant will allow for the Concord Police Department to fund overtime costs associated with implementing programs designed to address the opioid issue within the City and surrounding communities. These programs will be data/intelligence driven in order to direct resources most effectively in addressing this critical issue. The Department will also be sharing intelligence with the State and other law enforcement agencies in order to enhance the coordination of investigative efforts in combatting the illegal drug issue. There is no requirement for any matching city funds to be obligated for this grant program.

The Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative Grant application closes on July 7, 2023.