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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Gregory S. Taylor, Deputy Chief of Police

DATE: June 20, 2019

SUBJECT: 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Appropriation

Recommendation - Rescind and de-authorize the sum of \$3,000 in unmatched grant funds from the US Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, and changing the funding source from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to the County of Merrimack.

Background – During the summer of 2018 the Concord Police Department was notified that it was eligible to receive \$22,540 in unmatched grant funding through the US Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. Also listed under this allocation as a “disparate jurisdiction” was the County of Merrimack. As such, the City of Concord and the County were required to enter into an agreement to share this funding. The City of Concord was to be listed as the primary recipient of the grant with the County as a sub-recipient. An MOU was drafted and signed by authorized representatives of both the City and County. This agreement stipulated that the City was to receive \$19,540 and the County was to receive the remaining \$3,000. The City was to serve as the fiscal agent and submit a joint application as well as be responsible for all required reporting. The application was submitted in September 2019. The City Council approved Resolution #9134 on September 10, 2019 authorizing the acceptance and appropriation of the \$22,540 under this grant program.

In November of 2019 it was discovered that due to a misunderstanding the County of Merrimack had submitted an additional application to the Justice Assistance Grant Program. This application requested the entire allocation amount of \$22,540 to be assigned to the County with the City of Concord receiving nothing. The County’s application did not include an MOU with the City agreeing to this arrangement. Since the County submitted their application before the City’s application, the County’s application was approved and the City’s application was denied. The County was notified of their award and at that time sought to have an MOU signed with the City per a requirement of the grant. It was then that the dual applications were discovered.

“Community Committed”

Discussion – Realizing that there had been a misunderstanding, the County sought through the DOJ Justice Assistance Grant program to have their application rescinded and to have the grant awarded to the City of Concord rather than the County. The DOJ was unable to accommodate that request. As a result and through an agreement between the City and County, the grant award will remain listed as Merrimack County being the primary recipient with the City now listed as a sub-recipient. The agreed upon allocations will remain the same with the City receiving \$19,540 and the County receiving \$3,000 per the original application submitted by the City. The County however will now be the fiscal agent managing the grant and completing all reporting requirements. The City will request reimbursement of all grant eligible expenses directly from the County rather than through the Department of Justice. Under this agreement the County will now serve as the funding source to the City for all expenses under this grant.

Recommendation – Based upon the new agreement with the County of Merrimack, it is recommended that the City Council rescind and de-authorize the sum of \$3,000 in unmatched grant funds from the US Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. It is also recommended that the funding source for this specific grant be changed to the County of Merrimack. Upon passage of this resolution there will remain an appropriation of \$19,540 designated for the Police Department. This funding will allow for the Concord Police Department to replace and update older technologies currently in use and also purchase new equipment needed to maintain our efforts in an ever changing law enforcement environment. In addition, these funds will be utilized to offset costs associated with providing enhanced training to Department personnel in specialized areas.