



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 2, 2021

TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager

FROM: Jeff Jennings, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: **Resolution of The City Council of The City of Emeryville Accepting The \$28,500 Grant Funds Awarded By The California Department of Justice (DOJ) USAEG-BR Program, For Evidence Kit Testing And Authorizing the City Manager To Execute Related Agreement**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council consider adopting the above-entitled resolution to accept grant funds awarded by the California Department of Justice (DOJ), Division of Law Enforcement, Untested Sexual Assault Evidence Grant – Backlog Reduction Program (USAEG-BR), in the amount of \$28,500 and authorize the Emeryville Police Department to utilize the grant funds to pay for sexual assault evidence kit testing.

BACKGROUND

This grant opportunity is in response to California Assembly Bill 18, which requires all law California enforcement agencies to send all 2015 and older, untested sexual assault evidence kits to labs for testing by January 31, 2023. The purpose of this mandate is, in part, to help provide justice to victims of sexual assault. The California Budget Act of 2018 (SB 862) appropriated funding to the DOJ to aid with eliminating existing statewide sexual assault evidence backlogs by providing grants for local law enforcement agencies. The Emeryville Police Department applied for this grant and on October 5, 2021, was awarded \$28,500.

The grant period is active now and expires June 30, 2023. This is a dollar-for-dollar match funds grant and only pays for evidence testing. No staff costs or overtime were awarded in this grant. This is a reimbursable grant, so costs associated with testing will be invoiced to DOJ for the reimbursement.

The grant requires quarterly reporting to the DOJ. The Police Department will be required to report the total number of untested sexual assault cases submitted for testing and the records associated with the process. Some administrative staff time will be required to manage and log the kits being sent to the lab for testing and for completing quarterly reporting.

DISCUSSION

A primary goal of the Police Department is to meet the reporting mandates of AB 18. This grant will help by making funds available to the Police Department for the cost of testing.

A requirement of the grant is that each request for reimbursement reflect the dollar amount and the local funding source committed by the agency. The Police Department has the obligation to track and report the dollar-for-dollar match for the testing.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact will be the initial expenditure of paying for the testing. Testing costs up to \$28,500 will be reimbursed as long as the City matches the costs.

The Department has a line-item budget for investigations analysis and the evidence testing costs can be primarily drawn from that. The annual budget for this account is sufficient to cover the match requirement over the 2-year grant period. However, if more funding is required, the remaining balance can be covered by salary savings from vacant positions. Some Police administrative staff time will be required to manage the grant; this staff time will be absorbed as part of normal duties.

The reimbursement costs associated with lab testing will be submitted to DOJ for reimbursement on a quarterly basis.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

CONCLUSION

This program offers a great opportunity for the Police Department by assisting in achieving the State backlog testing mandates before the due date of January 31, 2023.

PREPARED BY: Oliver Collins, Emeryville Police Department Captain
Reviewed by Jeff Jennings, Chief of Police.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:



Christine Daniel, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Resolution
2. Grant Application