



Legislation Text

File #: 20-412, **Version:** 1

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SUBJECT: Authorization to Accept \$57,328 in Grant Funds from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Grant Assistance Program for the Police Department to Conduct Enforcement Operations and to Purchase Enforcement Supplies/Equipment with the Goal of Reducing Underage Drinking and Other Alcohol Crimes Related to Underage Drinking

REPORT IN BRIEF

Considers accepting grant funds from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control offered to the Merced Police Department in the amount of \$57,328 from the Grant Assistance Program for the Merced Police Department to conduct enforcement operations and to purchase enforcement supplies/equipment.

RECOMMENDATION

City Council - Adopt a motion:

- A. Adopting **Resolution 2020-55**, accepting a grant award from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Grant Assistance Program; and,
- B. Accepting and increasing the revenue budget in account 001-1002-324.02-00 by \$57,328, and appropriating the same amount in Police Operations Division 001-1002; and,
- C. Authorizing the use of pooled cash until reimbursement from the grant is received; and,
- D. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve, as recommended by Staff; or,
2. Deny; or,
3. Refer to Staff for reconsideration of specific items (specific items to be addressed in the motion).

AUTHORITY

Charter of the City of Merced, Section 200.

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

As provided for in the 2020-2021 Adopted Budget.

DISCUSSION

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is offering grant funding to law enforcement agencies to enforce underage drinking and reduce crime in and around licensed establishments that operate in a disorderly manner causing an undue burden on law enforcement services and disrupting the quality of life for the surrounding community. The grant is funded through the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) who disperses funds to ABC to offer grant funding. The City of Merced Police Department (MPD) submitted its application to ABC for funding to operate educational and enforcement projects for the grant period July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. ABC is awarding grant funds to the MPD in the amount of \$57,328. Hence, the MPD is seeking Council approval to accept the grant funds.

The MPD will use the grant funding to reduce the problems of underage drinking and disorderly conduct around licensed premises. Programs as part of the mini grant include: LEADS (Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs) is a prevention and educational program for retail licensees, their employees, and applicants; and, MINOR DECOYS to check on whether licensees are selling alcohol to minors; and, the SHOULDER TAPS method in which a person under the age of 21 solicits another person to purchase and furnish them with alcoholic beverages; and, IMPACT (informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies) inspections of "on-sale" and "off-sale" licensed locations; Other operations include ROSTF (Retail Operating Standards Task Force) inspections of businesses to ensure compliance with ABC regulations; TRAP DOOR operation that targets minors who try to purchase alcohol or try to enter a bar or club with false identification; and PREVENT that is a party patrol operation where officers investigate disturbances of parties to see if hosts are knowingly providing alcohol to minors.

The grant requires MPD to produce regular press releases to inform the public of the successes of the grant.

The award includes the below budgeted items:

- Personnel + Benefits to conduct operations while on overtime status = \$52,328
- "Buy Money" = \$2,500
- Equipment/Supplies = \$2,500
- TOTAL AWARD = \$57,328 / Match Amount = \$0

This grant does not have money set aside for regular/full time officer salaries. It is strictly a grant for reimbursement of overtime expenses related to conducting the operations.

This grant is 100% fully funded and no matching funds will be needed from the City of Merced. It is a reimbursable grant. The City of Merced pays the employees for the overtime and reimbursement claims are submitted every month to ABC to recover the costs.

The MPD received a similar grant for the period of 7/1/10 - 6/30/11, 7/1/12 - 6/30/13, 10/1/14 - 9/30/15, 10/1/15 - 9/30/16, 10/1/16 - 9/30/17, and 10/1/17 - 9/30/18.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

The required expenditures are 100% fully funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety Alcoholic

Beverage Control division. Costs must be expended first by the City and then reimbursed by ABC. There is no required match or impact on General Funds.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of OTS/ABC Standard Agreement
2. Resolution 2020-55