



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Minneapolis City Attorney's Office

Date: 4/10/09

To: Ways & Means/Budget Committee
Referral to:

Subject: Minneapolis Economic Recovery Strategy: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Byrne Competitive Grant Applications

Recommendation: Authorize City Attorney's Office to apply for Byrne Competitive Grant Opportunities in Categories I, VI, and VII

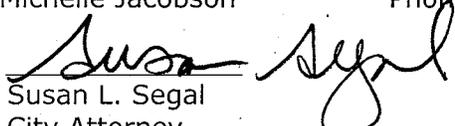
Previous Directives: None

Department Information

Prepared by: Michelle Jacobson

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Approved by:


Susan L. Segal
City Attorney

Presenters in Committee: Susan Segal, Michelle Jacobson

Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval _____ Date _____
- Civil Rights Approval Approval _____ Date _____
- Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval _____ Date _____

Financial Impact

- Other financial impact: Funding received would provide funding to pay for 5 FTEs: including 1 community attorney, 1 community attorney paralegal, 1 prosecutor, 1 paralegal and a victim witness assistant. This funding can be used for both lay-off prevention and hiring new employees.

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification N/A
- City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home and A Premier Destination
- Comprehensive Plan N/A
- Zoning Code N/A
- Other N/A

Supporting Information

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Department of Justice is seeking applications for funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program. The Byrne Competitive Grant Program has seven categories in which applications can be made. The Minneapolis Police Department, Health Department and City Attorney's Office have coordinated their grant requests under this program. The City Attorney's Office intends to seek funding in three categories as outlined below. This funding will help support the City's goals of making Minneapolis "A Safe Place to Call Home" and "A Premier Destination." This funding will be used both to fund existing jobs, create new positions and to provide funding on a contract basis with community based organizations.

Category I: Comprehensive Community-Based Data-Driven Approaches to Preventing and Reducing Violent Crime

The City Attorney's Office plans to submit an application seeking up to \$225,000 to fund the development and implementation of a program designed to prevent at-risk juveniles and emerging adults (18-25 years old) from being exploited into prostitution.

The program is a prevention oriented plan designed to provide outreach and resources to the juveniles and young adults (18-25 years old) who are at risk of being exploited into the prostitution trade. This program would further the goals and objectives outlined in the Youth Violence Prevention/Juvenile Blue Print for Action and the work of the Youth Coordinating Board. The funding sought will be used to develop a program to intervene with juveniles and emerging adults who are involved or are in danger of becoming involved in prostitution. This program is based on the "My Life, My Choice" intervention program in Boston, Massachusetts.

Category VI: Improving Resources and Services for Victims of Crime

The City Attorney's Office plans to submit an application seeking \$85,000 to fund a victim/witness assistant in the City Attorney's Office to work with victims of general crime, focusing on victims of 5th degree assault, damage to property, graffiti, serious traffic accident and driving while intoxicated cases.

The City Attorney's Office currently has a victim/witness assistant working with domestic violence victims. This victim/witness assistant has been instrumental in obtaining convictions on those cases due to the assistant's ability to provide support and assistance to the victim as the case moves through the criminal justice system. Victims are more likely to appear at trial and are better prepared to testify when they have someone knowledgeable about court proceedings to support them. The addition of a victim/witness assistant to work with general crime victims will make these services available to a broader victim population.

Category VII: Supporting Problem Solving Courts

The City Attorney's Office plans to submit an application in collaboration with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Hennepin County Community Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Hennepin County Mental Health Court P.R.I.S.M. program and St. Stephens Homelessness Outreach Program to implement the "Downtown 100" Chronic Offender Program. The application will seek funding of approximately \$1 million.

The Downtown 100 is a comprehensive and holistic project that will identify and prosecute 100 chronic offenders in Downtown Minneapolis who significantly increase the crime rate and decrease the community perception of safety by committing livability, drug and property crimes. The team would consist of prosecutors, a probation officer, homeless outreach workers and a mental health worker. The project would be led by a team of

prosecutors who are cross-deputized so that each prosecutor will have jurisdiction over both City and County cases to create a highly effective vertical prosecution model. The prosecutors would focus exclusively on the Downtown area. The Downtown 100 probation officer would aggressively monitor the 100 offenders for both felony and misdemeanor probation conditions. This project would also include homeless outreach workers, and a mental health worker. The two homeless outreach workers would provide supportive services within the St. Stephen's Homeless Outreach Program and mental health services would be provided through the Hennepin County Mental Health Court P.R.I.S.M. program. These support specialists would aggressively work with offenders to evaluate offenders' needs and assist offenders in obtaining chemical dependency treatment, mental illness treatment, housing, education, and employment. The program would also work with the downtown SafeZone Collaborative and MPD to develop an alternative response system so that the outreach workers would be called, instead of MPD, to respond to certain incidents that would be handled more appropriately by such providers, freeing the police to focus on law enforcement. The Downtown 100 project would draw on the relationships that have been created as a part of the SafeZone Collaborative and the newly formed Downtown Court Watch.