



Request for City Council Committee Action

Date September 9, 2005

To September 14, 2005 - PSRS Committee
Referral to Ways and Means and City Council Meeting

Prepared or Submitted by Deputy Chief Sharon Lubinski Phone 673-2735
Approved by _____ Assistant Chief Tim Dolan

Subject Appropriation of Additional Funds for 911 Buyback

Presenters in Committee Deputy Chief Sharon Lubinski and Precinct Commanders

Recommendation Consent Item

(Complete action required in the final report, including fund-agency-org, contract number and amendment number, if applicable)

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information

After discussion with Ways and Means on July 18, the Minneapolis Police Department, instead of an additional allocation as requested the MPD was directed to move the remaining \$140,000 from its current City Buyback operating fund (yearly total of \$250,000) into a 911 Buyback fund. Funds were to be used to supplement all precincts in providing additional officers on the street to respond to 911 calls. Information and concerns about the 911 calls-pending back-log and response times were covered during the Ways and Means discussion. Since the inception of the 911 Buyback in late July 2005, the MPD has spent \$132,509 through August 20. The average 2 week pay period extends \$65,000 of needed funds.

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Throughout the last couple months each precinct is determining the best hours to use their allotted buyback times. All shifts are benefiting from the buyback. To continue the 911 Buyback, which is praised by precinct commanders, street sergeants and officers, MECC Dispatch and the citizens, the MPD is requesting an additional appropriation of **\$350,000**, to support the 911 Buyback through mid-December.

Appropriation from funding code: Contingency 0100-175

Appropriation to funding code: MPD 0100-400-4000-4200

Current balance – Report Date 9/2/05

Break out by pay period ending:

7/23 – \$ 4,019

8/06 - \$54,711

8/20 - \$73,779

\$132,509

Comments from Precinct Commanders include:

3s - “The buyback has resulted in **immediate** impacts on improved response time, crime, livability issues and morale. It has given officers the ability to be more proactive, and to spend more time dealing with each call. The morale has greatly improved because the officers are not forced to run from call to call as much. The feedback from the community has been great. **Residents have noticed more presence** and better response time, even to lower level calls for service. It demonstrates how much of an impact a few more officers on each shift can make. We need to find a way to sustain these efforts”.

5s – Comments -- “911 calls are answered in a more timely manner and **officers are able to give more attention to calls**. Ability to do more directed patrol in hot spots. Most productive buyback we’ve ever had... **Officer safety has increased**. CRT does not have to fill in answering 911 calls, so they are able to focus on guns, drugs and prostitution. Ability to **handle party calls before they get out of control**. Priority 1 calls are not put in pending as long as before which contributes to customer satisfaction and feelings of safety”.

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Comments from Precinct (Street Sergeants) Supervisors and Police Officers include:

2s – “Today we were at minimums...we got swamped with calls pending starting about 1100. The 911 Response Buyback kept our heads above water when a two-officer car came on at 1200 and another at 1300. Without them, Response Cars [pulling squads from other precincts] would have been a strong consideration.

2s – “... without buyback, many calls would have been left pending for the next shift. ...911 buyback prevents officers from having to rush from call to call... many calls require extra time especially with the elderly, infirm and mentally challenged citizens... 911 has reduced the need of overtime for officers, which leads to burn out”.

3s – “I have seen a vast improvement in their [officer] attitudes because they are not running call to call during their regular shift. They don't spend their time worrying about lack of resources anymore”.

4s – “There are not enough adjectives to express how great I think this program is. It is a relief on the days when the buyback cars sign on at noon. I then know we can at least hold our own on the street”.

5s – “This buyback is a huge success. Bang for the buck this is by far the best and most productive buyback the pct has even had. I hope this buyback can continue in the future....”

Comments from MECC Supervisors:

“Huge success...virtually all dispatchers on mids have seen major improvements in assigning priority calls, especially at [precinct] shift change times.....overwhelming successful”.

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