



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: November 16, 2021

In Control: Public Safety Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Police

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William P. McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

FY21 DNA Testing Grant Program

SUMMARY:

The San Antonio Police Department will provide the Public Safety Committee with a briefing on the submission and acceptance if awarded of grant funds not to exceed \$200,000.00, from the Office of the Governor (OOG), Public Safety Office (PSO), Criminal Justice Division (CJD) for the TK-DNA Test Kit Fund, FY21 DNA Testing Grant Program for reimbursement of expenditures incurred by the SAPD during the period of October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The purpose of DNA Testing Grant Program is to assist law enforcement agencies with the costs associated with the forensic analysis of physical evidence in relation to sexual assault or other sex offenses.

The San Antonio Police Department is seeking a reimbursement grant not to exceed the amount of \$200,000.00 from the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

These funds will be for the reimbursement of costs associated with DNA kits collected from sexual assault/sexual offence victims and offenders.

The funds will reimburse the Department for the processing of any evidence in an “active” sex offense investigation which would include: Victims of Sexual Assault Nurse Examination (SANE) kits, suspect SANE kits, suspect DNA swabs, as well as processing evidence such as bedding, clothing, and any other materials taken into evidence in a sex offense investigation.

Chapter 420 (Subchapter B-1) of the Texas Government Code requires that “a law enforcement agency that receives evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense shall submit that evidence to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis not later than the 30th day after the date on which that evidence is received. This requirement came into effect on September 1, 2019.

In prior years funds were provided through a Request for Reimbursement (RFR) directly to the OOG/CJD. Due to changes in the administration of the funds and under the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 102.056(e), the OOG/CJD is now requiring that agencies apply for the funds as a grant. This is the second year the SAPD has applied for the reimbursement funds as a grant.

ISSUE:

This action will continue City Council's policy of accepting financial assistance for improving the collection of crime data to provide specific, detailed information regarding crime, arrests, and identify crime trends.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are no other grants that provide reimbursement of expenditures associated with DNA kits collected from sexual assault/sexual offence victims and offenders.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This grant provides reimbursement of up to \$200,000. For expenditures associated with DNA kits collected from sexual assault/sexual offence victims and offenders.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Public Safety Committee forward this item to the full City Council to accept funds for reimbursement of DNA kits collected from sexual assault/sexual offence victims and offenders.