



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

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**Agenda Item Number:** 5

**Agenda Date:** February 21, 2023

**In Control:** Public Safety Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Police Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** William McManus, Chief of Police

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Office of National Drug Control Policy; 2023 HIDTA Grant Submission and Application

**SUMMARY:**

A briefing to the Public Safety Committee on the submission of a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant application and acceptance of funds upon award in an amount up to \$2,178,947.00 from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 as well as accepting additional grant funds up to 20% of the grant and authorizing a budget and personnel complement of 17 positions which are currently funded with HIDTA funds.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, provides assistance to Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.

This grant program is administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). There are currently 33 HIDTAs, and HIDTA-designated counties are located in 50 states, as well as in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

The HIDTA mission is to reduce drug trafficking in the San Antonio metropolitan area by instituting innovative narcotic enforcement investigations and seizing illegally obtained assets to reduce the profitability of narcotics trafficking.

The San Antonio HIDTA Program consists of eight initiatives:

1. San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force
2. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) HIDTA Task Force
3. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) HIDTA Task Force
4. South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center
5. HIDTA Information Technology Initiative
6. HIDTA Support Services Initiative
7. HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative
8. Directors Administrative Crimes Initiative

The San Antonio HIDTA Initiative, DEA Task Force, and Homeland Security Investigations multi-agency task force performs drug interdiction operations designed to enhance the Police Department's narcotics enforcement efforts. This program allows the unit to use task force concepts providing the capability to cross jurisdictional boundaries by employing law enforcement officers from local, state, and federal levels. The program targets narcotics organizations by focusing on the middle to upper-level traffickers and investigates the distribution of narcotics and related enterprises. Members of this unit are trained to investigate money laundering, asset structuring, financial auditing, and to apply surveillance techniques necessary to develop intelligence and make arrests.

The South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center and Information Technology Initiative has a two-fold responsibility. The center will respond to inquiries from San Antonio and surrounding counties' criminal justice agencies by providing timely intelligence reports gathered from databases of the respective member agencies. Secondly, the center will act as a de-confliction unit for South Texas, which covers an area from Bexar County, south to Brownsville, and west to Del Rio. This section of the center is of paramount importance to the safety of officers in the field. It is responsible for maintaining up to date information gathered from all law enforcement agencies operating in South Texas. With information provided by these agencies, the unit will identify potential conflicts involving officer safety and immediately notify the affected agencies of the potential conflict.

The South Texas HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative is a cooperative partnership of Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies encompassing Bexar and Travis counties in south and central Texas. The task force is collocated with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the San Antonio Police Department, and Homeland Security Investigations in San Antonio and focuses on mid-to upper-level Mexican drug trafficking organizations, Transnational Criminal Organizations, terrorist organizations, and money laundering organizations operating in the South Texas HIDTA area of responsibility with ties to Mexican transnational criminal organizations. The initiative leads

and jointly investigates money laundering targets involved with specified unlawful activities consistent with money laundering activities.

The Director's Administrative Support Office is responsible for the overall administration and operation of the South Texas HIDTA program. Funds will be utilized for the rental of facilities for the director's office. Funds will also be utilized for the rental of facilities in the HSI, Support Services, and Financial Crimes Initiatives.

The 17 authorized positions are 4 Detectives, 2 Sergeants, and 11 civilian positions including analysts and systems administrator.

The table below provides the results of this program for calendar year 2022:

**HIDTA Calendar Year 2022 Productivity**

Arrested Persons	117
Search Warrants Executed	24
Guns Recovered	101
Marijuana Seized (grams)	325,970
Heroin Seized (grams)	2,307
Cocaine Seized (grams)	147,117
Meth Seized (grams)	110,068
Other Drugs Seized (grams)	35,227
Cash Seized	\$1,148,723
Gang Contacts	15

**ISSUE:**

A briefing on the submission of a grant application and acceptance of upon award in an amount up to \$2,178,947.00 including the acceptance of additional grant funds up to a limit of 20% of the grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**The grant does not have an impact on the City's General Fund. The grant will fund a total of 17 authorized positions. The total proposed program budget of \$2,178,947.00 is divided into eight (8) related initiatives as follows:**

Program Name	Budget	Positions
San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force	\$830,270	7
Drug Enforcement Agency HIDTA Task Force	\$225,905	1

<b>Homeland Security Investigation HIDTA Initiative</b>	<b>\$97,808</b>	
<b>South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center</b>	<b>\$626,862</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>HIDTA Information Technology Initiative</b>	<b>\$175,055</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>HIDTA Support Service Initiative</b>	<b>\$78,236</b>	
<b>HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative</b>	<b>\$51,046</b>	
<b>Director's Administrative Support Office</b>	<b>\$93,765</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,178,947</b>	<b>17</b>

**In the event of supplemental funding becoming available for the grant, up to 20% of the original grant award would be accepted.**

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

This grant provides an opportunity for the City of San Antonio to enhance the Narcotics operations of the San Antonio Police Department.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Public Safety Committee forward this item to the full City Council for approval of the submission and acceptance of funding upon award of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant.