



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

### File Number:

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**Agenda Item Number:** 8

**Agenda Date:** March 9, 2023

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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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:**

An ordinance authorizing 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. This action also authorizes the acceptance of additional grant funds up to 20% of the grant and authorizes a budget and personnel complement of 17 positions which are currently funded with HIDTA funds.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

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

The grant program is administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). There are currently 33 HIDTAs and HIDTA-designated counties located in all 50 states, as well as 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 the seizure of illegally obtained assets to reduce the profitability of narcotics trafficking.

The San Antonio HIDTA Initiative 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 enables the unit to use task force concepts providing the capability to cross jurisdictional boundaries by employing law enforcement officers from local, state, and federal agencies. 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 responds 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 Support Service Initiative supports and manages the building space occupied by SAPD, amenities, and training facilities. The training facility is managed by the HIDTA Executive staff and is utilized by the HIDTA Task Force, San Antonio Police Department, and surrounding Law Enforcement Agencies to conduct training and provides additional meeting space for briefs and board meetings.

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 co-located 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 position are four Detectives, two Sergeants, and 11 civilian positions including crime analysts, and a systems administrator.

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

<b>2022 Productivity</b>	<b>Citywide*</b>	<b>HIDTA*</b>
Arrested Persons	39,505	117
Search Warrants Executed	4,465	24
Guns Recovered	5,471	101
Marijuana Seized (grams)	765,396	325,970
Heroin Seized (grams)	10,863	2,307
Cocaine Seized (grams)	34,057	147,117
Meth Seized (grams)	81,815	110,068
Other Drugs Seized (grams)	3,491	35,227
Cash Seized	\$3,669,071	\$1,148,723
Gang Contacts	243	15

\*Through Dec 31

#### **ISSUE:**

This ordinance authorizes 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).

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

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

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes 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.

There is no cash match requirement for this grant. This action authorizes a budget and personnel complement of 17 positions, which are currently funded with HIDTA funds with in-kind support from the City to cover a portion of fringe benefits.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Positions</b>
San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force	\$830,270	7
Drug Enforcement Agency HIDTA Task Force	\$225,905	1
Homeland Security Investigation HIDTA Initiative	\$97,808	
South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center	\$626,862	7
HIDTA Information Technology Initiative	\$175,055	2
HIDTA Support Service Initiative	\$78,236	
HIDTA Financial Crimes Initiative	\$51,046	
Director's Administrative Support Office	\$93,765	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,178,947</b>	<b>17</b>

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends 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.