

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: May 19, 2015

CAO File No. 0220-03231-0050
Council File No. 11-0930
Council District: --

To: The Mayor
The Council

From: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer *MS*

Reference: Transmittal from the Board of Police Commissioners dated April 29, 2015

Subject: **2009 COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES (COPS) TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM GRANT – GRANT EXTENSION**

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) requests authority to extend the grant term of the 2009 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology Program Grant from the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) COPS Office by 18 months for a total term of seven years with a new ending date of September 10, 2016.

BACKGROUND

The Mayor and Council authorized the Chief of Police to accept the 2009 COPS Hiring Program Grant (Program), totaling \$500,000, in December 2009 (C.F. 08-1684). The Program provided funding for the development of a mass notification system to ensure rapid delivery of critical alerts, warnings, and instructional messages to City residents and businesses during disasters, emergencies, and other significant Citywide events. The Department initially partnered with the County of Los Angeles for access to the Alert LA County emergency notification system. However, technical limitations of that system, costs, and the need for City control of its messaging led to the Department procuring its own mass notification system (Nixle) in June 2014. This system is known locally as NotifyLA and reaches the public and first responders via recorded telephone messages, text messages, and emails. The public may sign up for notifications by going to www.notify.org or by texting their zip code to 888777.

The Department reports that the NotifyLA system is operating as planned and will provide the City with greater flexibility at a lower cost than the County system, allowing for unlimited notifications for the annual subscription cost of \$259,000. With unlimited notification capacity, versus the per call/text fee of the County's system, the NotifyLA system is more economically feasible for notifications to first responders and other City employees.

Inasmuch as there are remaining unspent grant funds, the Department is seeking authority to extend the Program term through September 10, 2016. The remaining funds will pay for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 subscription cost of NotifyLA (\$259,000). It should be noted that no new COPS technology grants that could fund the ongoing cost of NotifyLA are anticipated at this time. If such a grant becomes available, the Department will apply for it; if it does not, the Department will include a request for funding in its 2016-17 budget proposal for the NotifyLA subscription cost. The USDOJ notified the City on February 18, 2015 that it approved the extension request. Further details on the Program are provided in the Los Angeles Police Commission transmittal dated April 29, 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Chief of Police or designee to accept the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Division approval of a no cost extension for the 2009 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology Grant, extending the award period from March 10, 2015 to September 10, 2016;
2. Authorize the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations within this report will allow for the full expenditure of 2009 Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program Grant (Grant) award totaling \$500,000. There is no additional impact to the General Fund as a result of these actions. These recommendations are in compliance with the City's Financial Policies in that expenditure of Grant funds is strictly limited to the mandates of the funding source.