

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER


Date: October 31, 2014

CAO File No. 0220-03790-0043

Council File No. 14-1375

Council District: --

To: The Mayor
The Council

From: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer 

Reference: Board of Police Commissioners Transmittal dated October 7, 2014

Subject: **2012 SOLVING COLD CASES WITH DNA PROGRAM GRANT EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION**

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) requests approval to: 1) Accept a no-cost time extension to March 31, 2015 for the 2012 Solving Cold Cases with Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Program (Program) provided by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ); 2) Modify funding amounts within the Program budget; and, 3) Negotiate and execute no cost amendments to Contract Nos. C-121595 and C-122276 for the purpose of extending the ending date of both contracts to March 31, 2015. The total approved funding amount of \$500,000 will remain the same and the modification has been approved by the NIJ.

BACKGROUND

The Program is administered by the NIJ and provides periodic funding to states and local governments to identify, review, and investigate violent crime "cold cases" that have the potential to be solved using DNA analysis and to locate and analyze biological evidence associated with these cases. Cold cases are those that are five years or older and are no longer being pursued as active cases for investigation. On January 9, 2013, the Council approved the Department's acceptance of the Program grant from the NIJ in the amount of \$500,000 for the period of October 1, 2012 through September 31, 2014 (C.F. 10-1723).

For the purpose of providing sufficient time to complete the Program objectives, the NIJ approved an extension of the grant term on August 26, 2014 for an additional six months, extending the ending date to March 31, 2015. The NIJ also approved the proposed budgetary changes. If approved by Council, the reprogrammed funds will pay for travel and training expenses related to DNA and Cold Case investigations and laptops/accessories for detectives in the Cold Case Homicide Unit. The proposed reprogramming will support the Program objectives inasmuch as they will help detectives remain current with newly available technology, techniques, and practices in the use of DNA for solving crimes. Approval of this request will result in the following changes to the Program budget:

Costs	Current	Reprogram	Revised
Personnel/ Civilian Overtime	\$70,993	\$(5,293)	\$65,700
Personnel/ Sworn Overtime	127,575	(17,293)	110,282
Travel	5,036	27,447	32,483
Equipment	17,081	(17,081)	-
Contractual Services	277,835	(20,410)	257,425
Other	1,480	32,630	34,110
TOTAL	\$500,000	\$0.00	\$500,000

The reprogramming represents movement of \$60,077 in funds, but the net change is \$0 and the total Program will remain at \$500,000. The Department states that the reductions to contractual services (\$20,410) will have no material impact on the Project's outcome inasmuch as sufficient funding to perform all necessary contractor work is currently available in both contracts.

The Department also requests authority to negotiate and execute no cost contract amendments with The Bode Technology Group, Inc. (C-121595) and Orchid Cellmark, Forensics Inc. (C-122276) for the purpose of adding six months of time to each contract. Approval of this request will authorize the Department to extend the ending date of both contracts to March 31, 2015, ensuring that professional forensic DNA analysis services continue to be available during the extended term of the grant.

The Department reports the following results to date relative to the major objectives of the Program grant:

Objective	Results to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and prioritize 350 "cold" homicide cases that have the potential of being solved through DNA analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detectives have reviewed and prioritized 124 cases to date. Of these, 116 cases have potential for being solved through DNA analysis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrieve and evaluate biological evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detectives requested that the Scientific Investigation Division (SID) examine evidence items from the 116 cases that have so far been identified to have potential for being solved through DNA analysis. SID retrieved the evidence items from the property lockers, examined the items for the presence of biological evidence, and determined that evidence in 92 of the 116 cases still has biological evidence suitable for DNA analysis.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze DNA in biological evidence likely to yield results from the reviewed cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SID has sent evidence from the 92 cases with biological evidence suitable for DNA analysis to the contract laboratories. While DNA analysis is still underway for most of the cases, viable DNA profiles have been received for 10 cases.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete associated follow-up investigations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two follow-up investigations have been completed and/or are underway.

The Department anticipates meeting the Program objectives by the end of the grant period on March 31, 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Authorize the Chief of Police, or designee, to accept a no-cost extension for the 2012 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Program (Program) from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), extending the award period to March 31, 2015.
2. Authorize the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to reprogram funds totaling \$60,077 within the Program NIJ as follows:

Costs	Current	Reprogram	Revised
Personnel/ Civilian Overtime	\$70,993	\$(5,293)	\$65,700
Personnel/ Sworn Overtime	127,575	(17,293)	110,282
Travel	5,036	27,447	32,483
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Contractual Services	277,835	(20,410)	257,425
Other	1,480	32,630	34,110
TOTAL	\$500,000	\$0.00	\$500,000

3. Authorize the Chief of Police, or designee, to negotiate and execute no cost contract amendments with The Bode Technology Group, Inc. (C-121595) and Orchid Cellmark, Forensics Inc. (C-122276) for the purpose of adding six months of time to each contract with the new ending date of March 31, 2015.
4. Authorize the LAPD to prepare Controller's instructions for any technical adjustment, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize and instruct the Controller to implement the instructions.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The 2012 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Program costs are fully reimbursable. There is no impact to the General Fund. The recommendations in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies in that one-time revenue is used for one-time expenses.