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MICHAEL N. FEUER
CITY ATTORNEY

November 12, 2014

The Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: Cary Gross

Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: Holly Wolcott

2014 NOV 14 PM 3:03
CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Re: Acceptance of FY 2014-16 Smart Prosecution Grant Award

Contact Persons: Michiko M. Reyes (213) 978-7020
Janette Flintoft (310) 570-0686

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Members of City Council:

The Office of the City Attorney is transmitting for your review and approval \$435,253 in grant funding awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, which is the pass through agency for the Office of Justice Programs, to establish Project INTERCEPT (Introducing New Tools based on Evidence and Risk-assessment to Confirm Eligibility for Prosecution Treatment). The grant period runs from **October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016**.

INTERCEPT will usher in a federal "Smart Prosecution" initiative to the City of Los Angeles that relies on data and evidence-based practices to inform prosecutorial strategies. Through grant funding, the City Attorney's Office, in partnership with Justice Security and Strategies, Inc. (JSS) and the Center for Court Innovation (CCI), will introduce an **evidence-based risk assessment tool** to evaluate prosecutorial diversion approaches for misdemeanor offenders. Additionally, INTERCEPT will implement **restorative justice strategies** in the form of Community Justice Panels (CJP) for qualified offenders, defined as those who "science" predicts are appropriate for non-traditional case processing based on low risk assessment scores.

Inaugural CJPs in South Los Angeles and Hollywood will be comprised of two grant funded "vertical" case managers, in addition to trained community volunteers. JSS will provide quantitative analysis of crime, court, and prosecutorial data to inform the nature of cases eligible for INTERCEPT. CCI will evaluate two risk assessment tools (MEBA and ORAS-PAT) for implementation, program effectiveness, and potential expansion.

INTERCEPT outcomes will include: 1) introducing Smart Prosecution strategies to address under-resourced court systems, jail overcrowding, and chronic public safety concerns; 2) preventing low level offenders from becoming further drawn into the criminal justice system; 3) increasing prosecutorial capacity to inform case processing; and 4) strengthening communities through local decision making to address local crime. It is anticipated that grant funding will continue beyond FY 2014-2016 as a result of grantee performance and the ongoing need for resources in this area.

IT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED that the City Council and the Mayor:

1. Authorize the City Attorney or his designee to **APPROVE** the accompanying grant award between the City and the Office of Justice Programs and authorize the City Attorney or his designee to **EXECUTE** said grant award on behalf of the City, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.
2. Authorize the City Attorney or his designee to **ACCEPT** the grant award in the amount of \$435,253 for funding the Smart Prosecution Program for the period of **October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016.**
3. **AUTHORIZE** the Controller to:
4. **ESTABLISH** a receivable in the amount of \$435,253 within Fund 368, Department 12.
5. **ESTABLISH** Appropriation Account 12L231 - FY 14-15 Smart Prosecution within Fund 368, Department 12 in the amount of \$435,253.
 - a. **AUTHORIZE** the City Council to Instruct the City Clerk to place on Council Calendar for July 1, 2015, the following action relative to the Smart Prosecution Program:
 - i. "That the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, **AUTHORIZE** the Controller to transfer \$61,557 from Fund 368, Department 12, Account 12L231 FY 14-15 Smart Prosecution to Fund 100, Department 12, Account 1020 Salaries Grant Reimbursed."

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Honorable Council Members
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6. RESOLVE that employment authority in the City Attorney's Office for the period January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2017, for two Administrative Coordinator II (0568) positions are APPROVED and exempt these positions from the Hiring Freeze;
7. **AUTHORIZE** the Office of the City Attorney to prepare Controller's instructions for any necessary technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter. Should you have any questions or require assistance please contact Michiko Reyes at (213) 978-7020 or Janette Flintoft at (310) 570-0686.

Sincerely,


Leela Kapur
Chief of Staff

cc: Miguel Santana, CAO
Maria Raisa Corella, CAO