

COMMUNICATION

TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

File No. 11-1909-S1

**FROM: COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER DENNIS P. ZINE, MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR AND MEMBER, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE relative to the 2011 Forensic Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Backlog Reduction Program grant award for use by the Police Department's Scientific Investigation Division (SID).

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. AUTHORIZE the Chief of Police, or designee, to:
 - a. Retroactively apply for, and accept, the 2011 Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant award in the amount of \$1,570,465 from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), National Institute of Justice for the period October 1, 2011, through March 31, 2013.
 - b. Negotiate and execute the 2011 Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program Cooperative Agreement on behalf of the City and submit all necessary documents relative to the grant award, and to negotiate, execute and submit any other necessary agreements and documents relative to the grant, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.
 - c. Negotiate, amend, and execute existing agreements with contract laboratory service providers, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.
2. AUTHORIZE the Controller to:
 - a. Establish a grant receivable in Fund 339 in the amount of \$1,570,465 and establish an appropriation account, account number to be determined, within Fund 339, Department 70 for the receipt and disbursement of grant funds.
 - b. Increase appropriations as needed from Fund 339, Department 70, account number to be determined, to Fund 100, Department 70, Account No. 1090 Civilian Overtime by an amount not to exceed \$65,334.
3. AUTHORIZE the Police Department to:
 - a. Submit grant reimbursement requests to the grantor and deposit grant receipts in the Police Department Grant Trust Fund No. 339, Department 70.
 - b. Spend up to the grant amount of \$1,570,465 in accordance with the grant award agreement.
 - c. Prepare Controller's instructions for any technical adjustments consistent with this action, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO): and, REQUEST that the Controller implement the instructions.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The CAO reports that this action will not impact the General Fund. The Forensic Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program costs are fully reimbursable and acceptance of the grant does not require matching funds. The above recommendations comply with City financial policies inasmuch as one-time revenue is used for one-time expenses.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

In a report to Council dated January 24, 2012 (attached to the Council file), the CAO states that the Police Department seeks retroactive approval to apply for, and accept the 2011 Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant award in the amount of \$1,570,465, and to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the DOJ for the period October 1, 2011, through March 31, 2013. Pursuant to the terms of the Cooperative Agreement, the City will be reimbursed for expenses incurred to reduce the DNA casework backlog such as contract laboratory services, civilian overtime, travel, training, equipment, and Department administration and support.

According to the CAO, the major objective of the 2011 Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program Grant is to reduce the backlog of forensic cases in the Police Department's SID Serology/DNA Unit by 550 cases. The demand for DNA testing services has exceeded capacity for many years. Two recent developments are primarily responsible for the increased demand for DNA analyses: the success of solving property crimes through DNA and a greater ability to solve crimes through "touch" DNA. "Touch" DNA is DNA that is left behind in trace amounts when hands come into contact with an object. The CAO reports that the Police Department intends to reduce the backlog using a combination of employee overtime, new technology and equipment, and contract laboratory services. On January 10, 2012, the Board approved the Department's request. The CAO concurs with this action.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting held January 27, 2012, the Committee Chair and member recommended that Council approve the CAO's recommendations authorizing the Police Department to accept the 2011 Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant award and to approve the related action listed above, as recommended by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Respectfully submitted,

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS P. ZINE, MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
KREKORIAN	ABSENT
ZINE:	YES