

## COMMUNICATION

**TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

**File No. 11-1909-S1**

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

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR AND MEMBER, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE relative to the 2012 Forensic Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Backlog Reduction Program grant award for use by the Police Department.

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 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant award in an amount up to \$1,447,163 from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) for the period October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014.
  - b. Negotiate and execute the 2012 Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program Cooperative Agreement on behalf of the City; 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 and amend existing agreements or execute new agreements with existing contract laboratory service providers to expend up to \$450,000 in grant funded contractual service monies, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.
2. AUTHORIZE the Controller to:
  - a. Establish a supplemental grant receivable in Account No. 70H533, within Fund 339, Department 70 for the receipt and disbursement of grant funds.
  - b. Increase appropriations, as needed, from Fund 339, Department 70, Account No. 70H533, to Fund 100, Department 70, Account No. 1090 Civilian Overtime by an amount not to exceed \$123,820.
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 \$1,447,163 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 2012 Forensic 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 September 24, 2012 (attached to the Council file), the CAO states the Police Department requests authority to apply for and accept a DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant award in the amount of \$1,447,163 2012, and to execute a Cooperative Agreement between the City and the DOJ-NIJ for the period October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. According to the CAO, grant funds will be used to reimburse the City for expenses incurred to reduce the DNA casework backlog, such as: contract laboratory services, civilian overtime, travel, training, software licenses, equipment, and other related costs.

The CAO reports that the major objective of this grant is to reduce the backlog of forensic cases in the Police Department's Scientific Investigation Division's Serology/DNA Unit by 340 cases. The Police Department reports that 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 Department intends to reduce the backlog using a combination of employee overtime, new technology equipment, and contract laboratory services. On August 21, 2012, the Board of Police Commissioners approved the Police Department's request. The CAO concurs with this action.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting held September 28, 2012, the Committee Chair and Member recommended that Council authorize the Police Department to accept the 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant award, as recommended by the Board of Police Commissioners and the CAO.

Respectfully submitted,

MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS P. ZINE, MEMBER  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -**

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

JAW  
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