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TO: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager  
FROM: Stephen Monticelli, Chief of Police  
DATE:  
RE: 2016-2018 VA DCJS Grant Award

**Summary:** On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice awarded the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) the recurring annual grant funding a full-time lead Investigator assigned to improve the recognition and investigation of violent crimes against women in Harrisonburg.

**Background:** The recurring annual grant runs from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. The grant renews for two more years, for a total of three. The grant provides reimbursement of an officer's salary and portion of benefits costs, with the balance comprised to match funds appropriated by the Harrisonburg City Council. The HPD Major Crimes Unit will work closely with:

- The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Harrisonburg/Rockingham County
- First Step: A response to Domestic Violence
- Rockingham County/City of Harrisonburg Victim/Witness Program, and
- The Collins Center

The grant is specifically designed to establish a comprehensive approach to the issue of violent crimes against women, the apprehension of offenders, and to better provide services to victims of domestic violence.

**Key Issues:**

HPD plans to assign a full-time criminal investigator, with a minimum of five years of police experience, to lead a new initiative to improve the recognition and investigation of domestic violence (DV) and violent crimes against women (VCAW) in Harrisonburg.

**Environmental Impact:** none

**Fiscal Impact:** Grant funding totaling \$180,681, distributed annually at \$60,227 for each annual time period mentioned in *Background*, will cover the annual cost of a patrol officer's salary (\$38,688) and portion of benefits costs (\$1,312), with the balance of \$20,227 comprised to match funds of FICA not covered by grant funds (\$1,648), as well as the city's contributions to retirement (\$4,859), group life insurance (\$310), health and medical (\$13,255) and dental insurance (\$156).

**Prior Actions:**

**Alternatives:** (a) accept the grant as proposed to fund the DV/VCAW investigator program  
(b) decline the grant and fund the DV/VCAW investigator program through the general fund; or  
(c) decline the grant funding and do not conduct the DV/VCAW investigator program

**Community Engagement:**

Social Media awareness campaigns will be developed and run as part of a comprehensive approach to educate the community of Harrisonburg about DV/VCAW and promoting the goals of the HPD in combating DV/VCAW in the community.

**Recommendation:** Police Department and Major Crimes Unit have reviewed and support acceptance of the grant funding.

**Attachments:** Grant Award, Budget Narrative, Grant Implementation Plan

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*

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