

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Albert A. Ortiz, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: 2005 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

DATE: March 31, 2005

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the Interim City Manager, or his designated representative, to make a joint application with Bexar County for a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for a City/County project addressing child abuse. It also authorizes an Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County regarding the distribution of the grant funds and designating Bexar County as the grant fiscal agent.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Bureau of Justice (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. Proposed to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program allows local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on local needs and conditions, to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most.

The funds will be used to support a joint City/County project addressing child abuse. The purpose of the project is to conduct joint investigations with Bexar County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the County Housing and Human Services Department, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital, and the Alamo Children's Advocacy Center (ACAC). Additionally this project will reduce the number of interviews required of a child victim, minimizing the negative impact of the investigation and the re-victimization of the child. The City's portion of the grant will be used to fund one (1) Police Sergeant and two (2) Police Detective Investigator positions to investigate sexual abuse cases involving children. While tasked with the investigation of over twenty-eight (28) different offenses, the Sex Crimes/Family Violence Unit has a large portion of its caseload involving children as victims. This addition to the Department's personnel will lower current caseloads of

the presently assigned detective investigators and will allow for the participation in this pilot program without reducing current resources of the Department.

Bexar County will be submitting the single application for the JAG grant on behalf of the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. This is the first year of the grant. The grant is for a four (4) year period. The grant start date will be determined when the grant is awarded. The total joint grant amount for the City and Bexar County is \$1,117,297. The grant funds are to be split 60% (\$670,379) for the County and 40% (\$446,918) for the City. The County will be responsible for submitting the grant application, the administration of the funds including distributing the funds, monitoring the award, submitting reports including performance measures and program assessment data. An Interlocal Agreement has been prepared to designate Bexar County the grant fiscal agent and to delineate procedures to be followed by each agency.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This Ordinance continues City Council's policy of seeking intergovernmental financial assistance for City crime prevention and enforcement programs.

FISCAL IMPACT

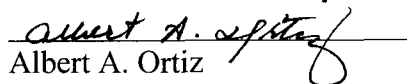
The total joint program budget for the City and Bexar County is \$1,117,297. The City's portion will be \$446,918. A General Fund cash match is not required.

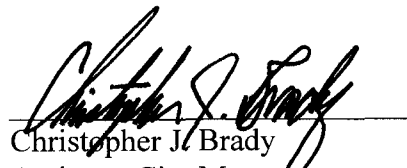
COORDINATION


This ordinance request has been coordinated with the Finance Department, the City Attorney's Office, the Office of Management and Budget and External Relations.

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

The Discretionary Contracts Disclosure Form is not required.


Albert A. Ortiz
Chief of Police


Christopher J. Brady
Assistant City Manager


J. Rolando Bono
Interim City Manager