



# City Council Report

**Date:** November 4, 2024  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Scott Butler, Assistant City Manager  
**From:** Ken Cost, Police Chief  
Kim Meza, Forensic Services Administrator  
**Subject:** Grant Award from the Office of Justice Programs – DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program (Citywide)

## **Purpose and Recommendation**

The City of Mesa Police Department is respectfully requesting that the Mesa City Council authorize the City Manager or designee to enter into a Grant Award with the Office of Justice Programs, to accept \$262,136 in grant funds for the Police Department's Forensic Services Division for DNA capacity enhancement and backlog reduction.

## **Background**

The Mesa Police Department's Forensic Services Biology Unit is responsible for processing biological evidence from homicides, sexual assaults, burglaries, and numerous other crimes. During 2023, the unit processed over 3,700 samples and prepared over 1,300 reports regarding their scientific analyses. The laboratory is a National DNA Index System participant.

## **Discussion**

The goals of the Biology Unit are to increase capacity and reduce backlog. To accomplish this grant funds will be used for software licenses and annual maintenance, training and the continued funding of personnel costs for a grant funded employee.

## **Alternatives**

If this Grant Award is declined, the Mesa Police Department's Biology Unit will not accomplish their goal of increasing the number of samples processed and reducing the turnaround time for all requests (persons and property crimes).

**Fiscal Impact**

The award amount is \$262,136 and no match is required. Mesa Police Department personnel will be responsible for submitting invoices to the Office of Justice Programs. The Office of Justice Programs will remit monies due upon receipt of the invoices.

**Coordinated With**

The City of Mesa Police Department recommends the approval of the Grant Award from the Office of Justice Programs for the DNA Backlog Reduction Grant Program.