



City Council Report

Date: August 30, 2021
To: City Council
Through: John Pombier, Assistant City Manager
From: Ken Cost, Police Chief
James McCormick, Commander
Subject: Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces – Agreements
Citywide

Purpose and Recommendation

The City of Mesa Police Department is respectfully requesting the Mesa City Council approve and authorize the City Manager or his designee to enter into Task Force Agreements with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces under the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration to accept up to \$50,000 during fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, for overtime and other authorized expenses for Mesa Police Department personnel assigned to the task forces.

Background

The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) Program has consistently worked in close partnership with State and local law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of major drug trafficking organizations. The program is designed to reimburse local law enforcement agencies for overtime costs incurred while assisting in investigations.

Local law enforcement agencies perform a variety of functions including but not limited to interviewing witnesses, conducting surveillance, performing undercover assignments, handling informant or prisoner transportation, preparing and executing search and arrest warrants and testifying at trials.

Discussion

Through Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Agreements, the Mesa Police Department has assisted with several investigations. Each Agreement is specific to a single investigation; however, the Mesa Police Department may simultaneously participate in several investigations. While no single Agreement may result in overtime reimbursement greater than \$25,000, the Agreements in aggregate historically exceed \$25,000.

Staff anticipates Council's approval of this Resolution will eliminate the need for multiple approvals of overtime reimbursements through September 2022. However, should the cumulative amount of the Agreements exceed \$50,000 during the federal fiscal year, Council approval will be obtained. Council approval for OCDEF overtime funding will be obtained annually.

Alternatives

If this item is not approved, the Mesa Police Department will obtain Council approval to accept Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Agreements as funding becomes available for investigations.

Fiscal Impact

The maximum amount a law enforcement officer can earn during a federal fiscal year is \$19,180. Task Force overtime shall not include any costs for benefits, such as retirement, FICA, and other expenses. This expense will be absorbed by the Police Department.

Coordinated With

The City of Mesa Police Department recommends the approval to accept Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Agreements during Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.