

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: December 15, 2020

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Tasha Logan Ford, Assistant City Manager
Catrina A. Thompson, Chief of Police

Council Action Requested:

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance Of The 2020 Strategies For Policing Innovation Grant Award And Authorizing The Execution Of A Memorandum Of Understanding Between The City Of Winston-Salem, North Carolina And The University Of North Carolina At Greensboro For Its Services Of Research And Evaluation Under The 2020 Strategies For Policing Innovation Grant Award

Ordinance Amending the Project Budget Ordinance for the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community

Strategic Objective: Improve Public Safety Quality

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: Yes



Summary of Information:

The Winston-Salem Police Department has been awarded \$700,000 under the 2020 Strategies for Policing Innovation Grant program. Grant award funds will be used to fund several technological elements of the Department’s proposed real-time crime center (RTCC), as well as a partnership with an academic researcher, which is a requirement under this grant project.

Since the emergence of real-time crime centers in 2005, this innovation has become what law enforcement officials call a “force multiplier” in crime prevention and reduction. With the proposed RTCC, the Police Department expects to see a reduction in some of its Part 1 Crime

Committee Action:

Committee	<u>Public Safety 12/14/2020</u>	Action	<u>Approval</u>
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For	<u>Unanimous</u>	Against	<u></u>
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Remarks:

Finance forwarded this item to Public Safety for review.

including shootings, robberies, burglaries, and criminal sexual assaults. The center will be equipped with personnel and technology offering several benefits:

- Advanced data analysis that focus on high-crime area, enabling a timelier response and more accurate decision-making.
- Camera technology will lead to numerous detections of crime in process as well as aid in identifying perpetrators post crime.
- Networks of cameras, sensors, and analytic software that not only provide visibility well beyond the eyes and ears of officers, but also provide real-time insight on nature of activities in progress.
- In alignment with the gunshot detection technology, camera views and monitoring of dispatch calls for service helps to get police officers on a scene and information to officers faster than ever before.
- Allow data-driven planning decisions on a much faster scale than is current actions and enables successful decision-making from the field.

There is evidence to support the value of real-time crime centers and real-time technology. This type of centralized area equipped with integrated advanced technologies and crime intelligence data, provides real-time, actionable intelligence to officers deployed in the field, improving officer situational awareness and incident response. Research data has shown the benefits of these centers. In a recent study by the RAND Corporation, Chicago saw an average of 5% - 15% crime reduction in some of its areas, with up to 40% reduction in certain types of crime. According to this same study, the use of these type of centers can expect to see reductions in at least some of the ten types of major crimes, one of which is shootings (Taylor, 2019). In July 2019, Florida's Fort Myers Police Department reported promising numbers within six months of creating a real-time crime center and adopting new intelligence-led technology: a 25% decrease in homicides and 12% decrease in aggravated assaults compared to the same period in 2018.

After fully implementing its real-time crime center, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department began to see impressive results from the coordinated, technology- and intelligence-driven approach. In 2017, the agency reported 313 stolen cars recovered, 112 stolen tags recovered, 23 missing persons located, and 250 arrests for violent and non-violent crimes.

As previously stated, a requirement of this grant is to establish sustainable practitioner-researcher partnerships. A portion of grant award funds will be used to contract with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to conduct research and evaluation services. The US Attorney's Office and Project Safe Neighborhoods utilize UNCG's North Carolina Network for Safe Communities (NCNSC) as a research partner in their violence reduction efforts. Having worked closely with the US Attorney's office and Project Safe Neighborhood, NCNSC has demonstrated a high degree of commitment and understanding to the overall violence reduction efforts in the area. NCNSC is familiar with the issues involving the violence and have done extensive research on various topics surrounding gun violence and other violent crime issues in the community. NCNSC has also collaborated with multiple law enforcement agencies across the state and been active research partners under both state and federal grants.

A signed memorandum of understanding must be executed before any reimbursable, grant-related work can begin. This is a three-year grant award, and UNCG’s NCNSC will be performing services during the entire grant award period.

An estimated summary of project expenses is as follows:

Strategies for Policing Innovation Grant Budget

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		TOTAL	
	Grant Funding	Other Funding Source	Grant Funding	Other Funding Source	Grant Funding	Other Funding Source	Total Grant Funding	Total Other Funding Source
Crime Center Turnkey Services	475,511	24,489	-	-	-	-	475,511	24,489
Fusus Camera System	55,000	5,000	55,000	-	55,000	-	165,000	5,000
UNCG Research Grant Partner	16,611	-	9,989	-	22,489	57	49,089	57
DOJ Mandatory Travel/Training	10,400	3,644	-	-	-	-	10,400	3,644
Desktop & Laptop Computers	-	26,240	-	-	-	-	-	26,240
							700,000	59,430

The maximum award amount for this grant is \$700,000. The above summary of expenses does not include all furnishings for the center, costs for construction, or all installation costs for the equipment and technology. Construction for the RTCC is taking place in conjunction with the Vivian H. Burke Public Safety Center renovation and sources to fund the additional project expenses would be proceeds from the Winston-Salem Police Foundation and the 2020 Justice Assistance Grant, whose award amount is \$96,022.50.

Annual recurring costs for technology after the grant expires are estimated to be \$125,600 and would be included as part of the City’s annual budget process.