

Information Item

Date: October 11, 2021

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

From: Patrice Toney, Assistant City Manager
August Vernon, Emergency Management Director
Wilson Weaver, Assistant Police Chief

Subject:

Presentation on the Hazardous Devices Unit

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



The Public Safety Committee approved this item at the September 2021 meeting. The Committee then asked for the information briefing to be brought back for the October meeting.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Office of Emergency Management will submit for the 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) regional grant through the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) in the amount of \$50,000. This 100% reimbursable federal grant will be used by the Winston-Salem Police Department's (WSPD) Hazardous Device Unit (HDU) to purchase a new, advanced portable XR150 X-ray generator. Portable x-rays are used by bomb technicians around the world to investigate suspects, dangerous and suspicious packages/devices/items.

This project was selected by the Domestic Preparedness Regional (DPR) Committee as a top priority since the HDU responds to 30 counties in central North Carolina. This device will increase the response capabilities of the HDU and create a safer working environment for the team's personnel, first responders and the public. The tentative timeline for the project would allow the purchase of the equipment in late October 2021 and close the grant out in early 2022.