

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Salinas, California

DATE: September 13th, 2016

FROM: Kelly McMillin, Chief of Police

BY: Gerard D. Ross, Sergeant

SUBJECT: **CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT AGREEMENT FOR
THE SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute and submit a California Office of Traffic Safety grant agreement for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

DISCUSSION:

Annually the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) makes funds available to local agencies to further their traffic enforcement and education efforts. The Salinas Police Department applied for and is eligible to receive OTS grant funding in the amount of \$105,000.00 to aid in its efforts to reduce the number of people killed and/or injured in traffic collisions, both alcohol-related and non-alcohol related. The Salinas Police Department has received OTS grant funding continually for the last 16 years in the area of DUI enforcement through the DUI Enforcement and Awareness Program and have received funding for six years for traffic enforcement through the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). Starting this year, OTS is no longer awarding funds through the DUI Enforcement and Awareness Program, but have added funds for DUI operations to the STEP grant.

This STEP grant will target problems that include speed violations, red-light violations, pedestrian/vehicle right-of-way violations, motorcycle safety, and enforcement at intersections with a high instance of collisions and injuries. The grant will now also provide funding for DUI saturation patrols and two DUI Checkpoints.

The grant funds will enable the Salinas Police Department to employ “best practice strategies” on an overtime basis. Also, as a further deterrent to serious traffic collisions, injuries and fatalities, the Salinas Police Department will use the grant funds to conduct traffic enforcement operations targeting distracted drivers and other violations that have shown to be the proximate cause of collisions in Salinas.

The Salinas Police Department will also use the grant funds as reimbursement for training and travel expenses associated with the Department’s traffic enforcement efforts.

ISSUE:

Should the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign and submit an Office of Traffic Safety Grant Agreement so the Salinas Police Department may receive \$105,000.00 in grant funds for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)?

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed funding from the Office of Traffic Safety is \$105,000.00, all of which will be used to support the Salinas Police Department's efforts to reduce the number of traffic collisions and fatalities. No matching funds are required from the City of Salinas in order to receive the grant funds.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

The current Office of Traffic Safety STEP Grant expires September 30, 2016. If approved, funds for this 2016/2017 grant would be made available for use on October 1, 2016 and conclude September 30, 2017.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council may choose to not approve the proposed resolution. This action will result in the City not receiving state grant funds.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

Approval of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to take the action recommended in this report supports the City Council's goal of prosperity initiatives by ensuring a safe environment for residents and visitors of Salinas.

CONCLUSIONS:

In order to obtain the grant funding from the Office of Traffic Safety, staff recommends the City Council adopt the proposed resolution.

Back Up Pages:
Council Resolution
OTS Grant Award Notification Letter

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (N.C.S.)

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT A
GRANT AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR THE
SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, a link between traffic enforcement and crime reduction has been proven; and

WHEREAS, increased traffic enforcement has been established as a priority for the City of Salinas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas desires to implement an Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant called Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, to be funded by OTS; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program is to identify and arrest drivers who are operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, target repeat DUI offenders, target distracted drivers and address other traffic problems throughout the City of Salinas shown to be the proximate cause of injury collisions using “best practice strategies.” The program strategies include DUI checkpoints, DUI saturation patrols and other methods; and

WHEREAS, OTS funding of the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program grant is contingent upon City’s good-faith effort to implement the 1-year, \$105,000.00 grant, by October 1, 2017; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute and to submit a grant agreement with the California Office of Traffic Safety for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this authorization shall include all aspects of program operation including any amendments, extensions, renewals, appropriations or future funding for this program for a period of one year provided funding is made available by the California Office of Traffic Safety, and to certify that the City will comply with all applicable statutory or regulatory requirements related to said program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of September 2016, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Joseph Gunter, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk