



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: JANUARY 7, 2020

DEPARTMENT: SALINAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

FROM: ADELE FRESÉ, CHIEF OF POLICE

BY: TONYA ERICKSON, MANAGEMENT ANALYST

TITLE: GRANT AGREEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT-BASED
VICTIM SPECIALIST PROGRAM

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution accepting the FY 2019 Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist Program Grant and authorize execution of all grant acceptance documents with the Office for Victims of Crime.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council accept the FY 2019 Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist Program grant award of \$276,000, as administered by the Office for Victims of Crime, for the hiring and support of Victim Advocate position to be based at the Salinas Police Department.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Salinas Police Department has been selected to receive an award of \$276,000 for the Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist Program. This three-year award will provide funding to hire and support a full-time Victim Advocate to provide direct, trauma-informed services to victims and their families, and to support them throughout the criminal justice process. The Victim Advocate will work closely with the Victim/Witness Unit at the District Attorney's Office and will strengthen partnerships with local agencies and community-based service providers who work with victims.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime provides grants to state, tribal and/or local law enforcement agencies to hire victim service specialists to improve the overall response to victims of crime – with a strong focus on reaching and serving victims in high-crime areas and communities particularly affected by violence. This three-year grant is intended to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies to better identify and respond to victims by informing them of their rights and referring them as early as possible to much-needed

services like counseling, emergency shelter, safety planning or assistance with crime victim compensation.

On September 27, 2019, the Salinas Police Department received an award in the amount of \$276,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime to support the development of a new Victim Services Program within the Investigations Unit. The grant provides \$92,000 per year, for a period of three years, to fund the hiring and support of a full-time Victim Advocate to provide direct, trauma-informed services to victims and their families, and to support them throughout the criminal justice process. This includes providing written information on their rights, compensation, the array of services available, and the availability and contact information for the Victim Advocate. The Victim Advocate will work closely with the Victim/Witness Unit at the District Attorney's Office and will strengthen partnerships with local agencies and community-based service providers who work with victims.

The grant period runs from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022, with a final report due no later than 90 days following the close of the award.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

Approving the proposed resolution will support the City Council's Strategic Plan Goal of Safe, Livable Community. This proposed resolution will also support the Salinas Plan via the movement of administrative and support duties to non-sworn personnel.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The Police Department will work with the Legal Department during approval, and with the Finance Department during implementation. The Police Department is working with the Human Resources Department on the development of a full-time Victim Advocate position which will be funded by the Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist Program grant.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Proposed funding from the Office for Victims of Crime is \$276,000, budgeted at \$92,000 per year for a three year period, all of which will be used to hire and support a Victim Advocate position to provide direct services to victims and their families. No matching funds are required from the City of Salinas to receive the grant funds.

The Police Department intends to sustain this position after the grant period ends by reallocating a vacant Technical Services Coordinator position.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Grant Award/Agreement, dated September 27, 2019