



SAN RAFAEL CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Department: Police Department

Prepared by: Todd Berringer, Lieutenant

City Manager Approval: _____

TOPIC: OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT APPROVAL

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF STATE OF CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$138,000 FOR THE “SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM” (“STEP”) GRANT FROM OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE GRANT

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution approving the acceptance and appropriation of State of California Office of Traffic Safety grant funds in the amount of \$138,000 for the “Selective Traffic Enforcement Program” (“STEP”) grant from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 and authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement and any other documents related to the grant.

BACKGROUND:

For the past twenty years, the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) of the State of California has awarded over two million dollars in traffic safety grants to the City of San Rafael. These grants have included the Marin County “Avoid the Marin 13” Driving Under the Influence (DUI)/ Driver’s License (DL) campaign, Click it or Ticket grants, DUI Mini grants, DUI Enforcement and Awareness grants, and STEP grants. Each of the grants have provided critical traffic enforcement and education operations by funding the deployment of officers for DUI / DL checkpoints, DUI saturation patrols, red light and speed enforcement, seat belt enforcement, and distracted driving enforcement. As of October 1st, 2016, OTS no longer offers the countywide “Avoid the Marin 13” grants. The only funding available is through the Selective Traffic Enforcement (STEP) grant program. This development has greatly reduced our funding for traffic and DUI related enforcement activities.

The San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) currently has two officers assigned full-time to traffic enforcement. This is down from seven full-time officers in 2007. The San Rafael Police Department has encouraged patrol officers and traffic officers to conduct enforcement focused on reducing alcohol and speed-related collisions, along with increased pedestrian and bicycle safety.

The San Rafael Police Department Community Outreach and Social Media teams regularly disseminate traffic safety information in a bilingual format.

FOR CITY CLERK ONLY

Council Meeting:

Disposition:

ANALYSIS:

OTS has approved a grant of \$138,000 to the City of San Rafael. The project goal of this OTS grant is to reduce the number of persons killed or injured in vehicle collisions involving alcohol, speed, red light violations and other primary collision factors, by implementing “best practice” strategies. Enforcement and education have shown to be critical in reducing vehicle collisions. The grant will provide the necessary resources for traffic enforcement and education operations.

The acceptance and implementation of this \$138,000 grant is critical to maintain traffic safety levels in San Rafael. Collision data from years 2020 through 2021 indicated that most of the city’s collisions occurred due to unsafe turns, excessive/unsafe speed, red-light violations, driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and unsafe starting. The Police Department recognizes that additional education and enforcement is needed to reduce these numbers.

The SRPD encourages patrol and traffic officers to conduct focused enforcement for reducing alcohol-, pedestrian-, and speed-related collisions. However, current staffing levels inherently limit the frequency by which more proactive traffic enforcement efforts can occur because officers are primarily focused on responding to emergency calls for service.

Should the City Council approve this grant, the San Rafael Police Department will have the resources to implement numerous enforcement programs including, but not limited to, various safety and awareness campaigns, enforcement operations, and a program to identify repeat DUI offenders. The grant also includes funding for officer trainings and enforcement operations for distracted driving, motorcycle safety, and bicycle/pedestrian safety, among others.

Operations for this grant will be scheduled between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023.

The SRPD will report statistics quarterly to the Office of Traffic Safety and the grant will be evaluated by how well the stated goals and objectives were accomplished.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

A significant aspect of this grant is educating the community and increasing awareness regarding traffic safety. This will be accomplished through press releases and the use of social media. The San Rafael Police Department has 15,800 Twitter and 12,000 Facebook followers as well as 41,000 subscribers to updates on Nextdoor and over 2,100 subscribers to press release email notifications.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The grant funding will be received into the Grant Fund – Safety (Fund #281) and will be appropriated for operational expenses such as overtime costs, travel and training associated with the focused enforcement of traffic safety, up to the total proceeds of the grant of \$138,000.

OPTIONS:

1. Adopt the resolution approving acceptance and appropriation of the \$138,000 Office of Traffic Safety STEP grant and authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement and any other documents related to the grant.
2. Do not adopt the resolution. (The OTS grants require the implementation of all the grant components for funding to be provided.)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt the resolution approving the acceptance and appropriation of State of California Office of Traffic Safety grant funds in the amount of \$138,000 for the “Selective Traffic Enforcement Program” (“STEP”)

grant from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, and authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement and any other documents related to the grant.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF STATE OF CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$138,000 FOR THE “SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM” (“STEP”) GRANT FROM OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE GRANT

Whereas, the State of California, Office of Traffic Safety has approved a grant to the City of San Rafael in the amount of \$138,000 in grant funds for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; and

Whereas, this grant money may be spent to pay overtime costs, travel and equipment purchase associated with the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (“STEP”) Grant Program to mitigate traffic safety program deficiencies and expand ongoing activity; and

Whereas, to improve traffic safety, the San Rafael Police Department will use the STEP Grant funds to conduct DUI saturation patrols, distracted driving enforcement, motorcycle safety enforcement, high collision intersection enforcement, speed enforcement patrols, and enforcement traffic stops; and

Whereas, the Police Department will use the STEP Grant funds for overtime personnel costs of Captains, Lieutenants, Sergeants, Corporals, Officers, Community Service Officers, Dispatchers and Cadets incurred in connection with the enforcement activities, including training and travel and expenses related to enforcement activities; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the acceptance and appropriation of \$138,000 in California Office of Traffic Safety grant funds for the City’s “Selective Traffic Enforcement Program” from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, with funds to be appropriated in the Safety Grant Fund 281; and authorizes the City Manager to execute a Grant Agreement and any documents related to the Grant in a form approved by the City Attorney.

I, Lindsay Lara, Clerk of the City of San Rafael, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced and adopted at a regular meeting of the San Rafael City Council meeting held on September 19, 2022 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

Lindsay Lara, City Clerk