PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: July 29, 2009

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:35 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members
Ryan Vaughn, Chair
Bob Cockrum
Benjamin Hunter
Mary Moriarty Adams
William Oliver
Marilyn Pfisterer
Christine Scales

Absent Members
Vernon Brown

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 235, 2009 - appoints Albert Serrano to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
"Do Pass" Vote 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 275, 2009 - appoints Dawn E. Higgins to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
"Postponed" until August 12, 2009 Vote 7-0

Update on the Local Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application – Liz Allison, Grants Manager, Department of Public Safety

Discussion on IMPD's new recruiting process – Chief Bryan Roach, IMPD, and Mark Renner, Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety

THE MINUTES FOR THIS PORTION OF THE MEETING WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT A LATER TIME.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, July 29, 2009. Chair Ryan Vaughn called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the following members present: Bob Cockrum, Benjamin Hunter, Mary Moriarty Adams, William Oliver, Marilyn Pfisterer, and Christine Scales. Absent was Vernon Brown.

PROPOSAL NO. 275, 2009 - appoints Dawn E. Higgins to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Hunter, to forward "Postpone" Proposal No. 275, 2009 until August 12, 2009. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 235, 2009 - appoints Albert Serrano to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Mr. Serrano said that he has been an attorney with the Marion County Public Defender's Agency since 2005. Prior to that, he practiced with the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, during which he spent some time in the Domestic Violence Unit. He said he is familiar with domestic violence, as he is honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board. He said over the last seven years, he has become very familiar with criminal defense and prosecution of domestic violence cases.

Councillor Cockrum said that the background check on Mr. Serrano has not yet been completed. Chair Vaughn said that will be confirmed before the full Council votes on the appointment.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Scales, to forward Proposal No. 235, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Update on the Local Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application – Liz Allison, Grants Manager, Department of Public Safety

Ms. Allison said for many years, she has brought both the appropriation requests and details of the JAG grants. She said the Bureau of Justice Assistance requires that JAG grants have a public hearing, and this Committee meeting, as well as the full Council meetings, qualify as public hearings. Ms. Allison said this is the original Local Law Enforcement Block grant that the City has had for about nine years. It was replaced five years ago with the JAG grant, through the merging of the Local Law Enforcement Block grant and the BURN grant. She said there are two parts of the JAG grant, and the second part is the JAG stimulus funds. Ms. Allison distributed a handout (attached as Exhibit A) that gives of a summary of the uses of the JAG grant. She said this is grant is broken up into three portions for: the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), the Marion County Prosecutor's Office (MCPO), and the Marion County Sheriff's Department (MCSD). She discussed the items included in each portion, as detailed in Exhibit A. Ms. Allison said that the budget dollars for IMPD is becoming scarcer each year, and the training dollars is one of the things that typically get cut. However, Chief Bryan Roach, IMPD, has

asked that some money be put back for specialized training. She said the money for specialized training would cover travel expenses for officers that go out of town to receive training. Ms. Allison said that the federal government has agreed to fund 42 tasers under Law Enforcement equipment, as well as 16 new bicycles that will replace the current downtown bicycles. The old bicycles will be sent to the districts for neighborhood patrols.

Ms. Allison said there is an increase under Community Policing, Crime Analysis, because of the need for an additional analyst due to the merging of the police departments. She said $25,000 is needed for the specific reporting that is required for all Weed and Seed sites. In addition, cell phones are being requested for the volunteer chaplains, as they do not receive compensation to cover the expense.

Councillor Hunter asked if the actual funding for this request will come before the Committee for action. Ms. Allison answered in the affirmative. Councillor Hunter asked if this is simply what will be submitted for approval. Ms. Allison answered in the affirmative. Councillor Hunter said there is some concern of the Sheriff's Office purchasing vehicles outside of a Charcter allotment, but the maintenance of those vehicles is funded out of the Characters. Ms. Allison said that this is a block grant, of which 25% is given to the County without reservation. She said the County is not required to report their spending, as the block grant under JAG gives the Chiefs the flexibility to spend the funds as needed. Councillor Hunter said that maybe the maintenance of the vehicles should be put into the Department of Public Works maintenance line with respect to budget. Perhaps this would prevent the purchase of vehicles outside of the City's budget that later have to be maintained at the City's expense. Ms. Allison said that this grant appropriation must be approved by the Council. Councillor Hunter said he is in favor of MCSD receiving the equipment that they need, but his problem is that Fleet Services has to pay the long-term maintenance expenses for the out-of-budget vehicles.

Councillor Scales said she has been contacted by members of the community with concerns about how many vehicles the Sheriff's Department has and how those vehicles are being used. She asked if there is a need to verify the information and if this money could possibly be spent on other things. Ms. Allison said that the money goes to the Sheriff's Department for them to spend it at their discretion, but there are some things that the Sheriff's Department may need that do not qualify for JAG funding. For example, the Sheriff's Department originally requested prison vans, but they do not qualify under the JAG grant, as the only vehicle that can be purchased with those funds is a police cruiser. Ms. Allison said this is grant request for a three-year, and if any of the needs change at any time during the term of the grant, a justification letter can be written to the federal government to request a change in the budget process.

Chair Vaughn asked Ms. Allison to email the Committee a list of permitted uses for JAG funds. Ms. Allison answered that she can provide a list of the things that are prohibited, as that is the way it is specified.

Councillor Pfisterer said that she recalls that the last police cruisers that were purchased cost about $26,000, but the amount listed on Exhibit A is $20,000. She asked if this suggests that the cost is lower. Ms. Allison answered in the negative, and stated that she simply listed the

associated costs separately, such as emergency equipment, laptops, sirens, and Vehicle Radio Modems (VRM). She said the total would be $26,000 for a completely equipped cruiser.

Councillor Oliver asked, with regard to the $10,000 request for law enforcement recruitment efforts, if the items requested will help put the recruitment numbers at a desired level. Ms. Allison answered that previously, there was a large recruiting grant from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office of about $25,000 that ended up being spent over a period of three years. However, the bottom line is that an actual recruiting officer is needed as opposed to items or equipment. She said it is not a problem of attracting people, but it is a point convincing people stay in the program. Councillor Oliver said that he is concerned that there is not enough money allotted for this effort. Ms. Allison agreed, but all of the things listed on Exhibit A are necessary and there is only so much money to go around.

Don Harris, citizen, said that it is inappropriate to request money for the things listed when there are people living on the street. Ms. Allison stated that this is for equipment for the police department. Mr. Harris said that places such as the Childrens' Home and the Home for children of soldiers have been closed. Chair Vaughn said that the issue is that there are particular expenses that are allowed through the federal JAG program. He said that the problems that Mr. Harris has identified are valid and need to be addressed, but they cannot be addressed with this particular funding per federal rules. Mr. Harris said that he feels that the money should be used to employ recruiting officers instead of to purchase items for recruitment.

Councillor Moriarty Adams asked under what circumstances the commercial refrigerator will be used. Ms. Allison answered that it will be used for things such as frozen foods and groceries, as well as blood samples and any other things that need refrigeration.

Discussion on IMPD's new recruiting process – Chief Bryan Roach, IMPD, and Mark Renner, Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety

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Exhibit A

JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)
Funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance
Department of Justice

Summary of 09 Plan

Category	Item	Character	Cost Per	Total Cost
IMPD				
Training	Specialized Training for Law Enforcement	Character 3	Avg Cost $1,000 per	$ 40,000
Equipment – Vehicles	Police Cruisers – 36	Character 4	$ 20,526	$ 738,936
	Emergency Package – 36	Character 2	$ 3,805	$ 136,977
	Vehicle Radio Modem Programming – 36	Character 3	$ 50	$ 1,800
Equipment-Law Enforcement	Tasers	Character 2	$ 910	$ 38,220
	Bicycles – 16	Character 2	$ 1,375	$ 22,000
	Bicycle Parts – Refurb older bikes	Character 2	TBD	$ 4,500
Equipment – Property Room	Evidence Drying Cabinets – 4	Character 4	$ 5,000	$ 20,000
	Refrigerator – Commercial	Character 4	$ 3,100	$ 3,100
Recruitment – Law Enforcement	Recruit Advertising – Commercial	Character 3	TBD	$ 4,000
	Recruit Job Fairs – Booth Rental	Character 3	TBD	$ 3,000
	Recruiting Merchandise – Key chains, Pens, Mugs, etc	Character 2	TBD	$ 3,000
Community Policing	Crime Analysis – Crime Control Research	Character 3	$ 125,000	$ 125,000
	Weed & Seed Reporting – Rogers & Associates	Character 3	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
	Cell Phones for Volunteer Chaplain Program	Character 3	Avg $350-$500 per mo	$ 5,000
Marion County Prosecutor Office	Deputy Prosecutor – 2 with benefits for 2 years in their Juvenile Division	Character 1/3		$ 292,636
Marion County Sheriff Department	Police Cruisers for the Sex Offender Registry Compliance Unit – 5	Character 4/3	$ 19,509	$ 97,560
		Total Grant		**$ 1,560,729**

Presented to the City of Indianapolis/Marion County Council – Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee – 07/29/09