



City Council Report

City Council Meeting: November 24, 2015
Agenda Item: 3.D

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Jacqueline Seabrooks, Police Chief, Police Department
Subject: Accept Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Grant

Recommended Action

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to accept a grant awarded in the amount of \$10,800 from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) for the 2015 Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's ABC-OTS Grant Program.
2. Authorize budget changes as outlined in the Financial Impacts & Budget Actions section of this report.

Executive Summary

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) has been awarded an ABC grant in the amount of \$10,800. Funds must be used by the end of the grant period, September 30, 2016. No local match is required.

The purpose of this grant is to assist the Police Department in conducting operations that reduce the number of licensees who sell alcohol to minors or adults who furnish alcohol to minors, as well as providing education to merchants through inspections. All enforcement operations would be conducted on an overtime basis which would be funded by the grant.

Background

The ABC-OTS Grant Program, previously called the ABC Multi-Program Mini Grant, provides funding to support three programs: the Minor Decoy Program, Shoulder Tap Program, and IMPACT (Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies) inspections. Funding for the project comes from the Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Safety Administration. The City has been a recipient of funding from this ABC grant program previously in 2011 and 2014. The 2015 grant

program would provide funding for overtime costs associated with education and enforcement operations. The funds must be spent by September 30, 2016.

Discussion

One of the Police Department's priorities is to address quality of life issues which include the illegal purchasing and distribution of alcohol by and to minors. With 346 ABC active licensees, Santa Monica has one of the highest ratios of alcohol establishments-to-population in the State. Communities, such as Santa Monica, with a high concentration of alcohol outlets experience a greater number of alcohol-related problems.

This grant focuses on education and enforcement. The funds would allow the Santa Monica Police Department to continue to expand its present efforts in identifying and targeting problematic ABC licensed establishments. The grant would fund five overtime minor decoy operations, five shoulder tap operations, and 40 IMPACT inspections. In addition, Santa Monica would host a LEAD (Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs) class, led by ABC's LEAD unit, for ABC licensees located within the City of Santa Monica during the term of the agreement.

The goal of the Minor Decoy Program is to reduce the number of licensees who sell alcohol to minors. The Minor Decoy Program uses supervised individuals, who are under the age of 20, to attempt to purchase alcohol at licensed premises. Any sale of alcohol to a minor decoy subjects the seller/employee and the licensee to criminal and administrative sanctions. The Minor Decoy Program has proven to be a significant and effective tool in promoting responsible practices in the sale of alcoholic beverages by licensees, reducing substance abuse, and enhancing community welfare by limiting underage access to alcohol. Following each operation, the Police Department issues a press release sharing the results of the operation. This strategy serves as a deterrent by notifying the community that enforcement is happening and encouraging ABC licensed

establishments to follow the laws.

The Shoulder Tap Program targets adults who furnish alcohol to minors. "Shoulder Tapping" refers to the practices used by minors to obtain alcohol from adult strangers near off-sale retail outlets. Data collected from prior Shoulder Tap Programs reflected one-third of the adults arrested for purchasing alcohol for minors were on parole, probation, or had outstanding warrants or extensive criminal histories. Similarly to the Minor Decoy Program, the Shoulder Tap Program uses supervised individuals, who are under the age of 20, to attempt to have an adult purchase alcohol for them at ABC licensed establishments.

IMPACT inspections focus on licensee education. Officers randomly select licensed outlets to conduct business-friendly compliance inspections. The officers look for loitering, litter, graffiti, posted sign violations, lack of food service in restaurants, illegal weapons, or other violations. The licensee must then correct any identified problem areas. Follow up visits are conducted to ensure the licensee has corrected the problem.

During the 2014 grant period, staff used the grant monies to fund 10 enforcement operations targeting the illegal distribution and purchasing of alcohol by and to minors. During the course of operations, minor decoys visited 53 ABC licensed establishments to buy alcohol, and contacted over 400 people via "Shoulder Tapping." In addition, investigators inspected a total of 44 establishments with "on sale" and "off sale" ABC licenses. Staff conducted one LEAD class providing merchant education to 75 alcohol licensees.

Financial Impacts and Budget Actions

Award of a \$10,800 grant from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control requires the following FY 2015-16 budget changes:

1. Establish revenue budget at account 20306.406042 in the amount of \$10,800.
2. Appropriate the following expenditures to reflect receipt of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control's ABC-OTS grant: \$10,800 at account 20306.511490 89009W.

Prepared By: Nicole Bustamante, Senior Administrative Analyst

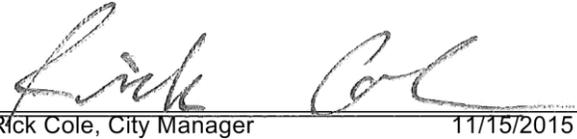
Approved

Forwarded to Council



Jacqueline Seabrooks, Police Chief

11/10/2015



Rick Cole, City Manager

11/15/2015