



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting November 14, 2023
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting November 28, 2023

DATE: November 14, 2023
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Mike Markle, Chief of Police
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Acceptance and Appropriation of Grant Funds for the Red Cord Initiative Diversion Program for the Corpus Christi Police Department

CAPTION:

Ordinance accepting grant funds from the Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation in the amount of \$15,000.00 to fund overtime and fringe benefits for Corpus Christi Police Department sworn officers for the Red Cord Initiative Diversion Program; and appropriating \$15,000.00 in the Police Grants Fund.

SUMMARY:

The Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation has received a grant from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division in the amount of \$15,000.00 to fund overtime and fringe benefits for the Corpus Christi Police Department to work with the Red Cord Initiative Diversion Program. The City is considered a subgrantee of this grant.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Red Cord Initiative is a community-based, pretrial prostitution diversion program dedicated to providing practical, emotional, and social support for those involved in sex work. The program includes case management, law enforcement, prosecution, and behavioral health services (including substance abuse treatment) in Nueces County for eligible individuals.

The Red Cord Initiative believes in a community-based, comprehensive, and holistic approach with the goals of reducing the harm an individual has caused to themselves, as well as the harm that the individual is causing to the surrounding community. The Red Cord Initiative focus is to improve public safety and public order in the Corpus Christi and Nueces County neighborhoods and to reduce justice system involvement with people who successfully complete the program.

For this grant, the Corpus Christi Police Department (CCPD) will work with the Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation to provide overtime enforcement to conduct law enforcement activities to prevent, control, or reduce prostitution crimes. The Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation is a community-based non-profit organization that provides many public services to the Corpus Christi community. Some of the services they provide include mental health, substance abuse, and infectious disease testing.

The grant period is from November 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. For this program, the CCPD will provide the following:

- Assign personnel specifically trained and specialized in targeting investigations and prosecutions of prostitution crimes
- Coordinate and schedule operations in high-risk areas to target individuals who be eligible for diversion program
- Participate and support performance measures and evaluation plan to meet contractual obligations
- Identify a point of contact to serve on the Red Cord Initiative Multi-Disciplinary Care Team and attend coordinating group planning meetings as appropriate

For this program, CCPD will run two operations for a total grant amount of \$15,000.00 for salaries and fringe benefits. This is the third time that the City has applied for this grant. The previous award was given in 2020 in the amount of \$22,734.08.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative of not accepting the funds will cause the program not to be implemented. This will result in more prostitution crimes occurring without diversion and enforcement as well as a less likelihood that the grant will be awarded next year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact for FY 2024 is accepting and appropriating an amount of \$15,000.00 to the Police Grants Fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund: 1061
Organization/Activity: 821608S
Department #: 29
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: \$15,000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends accepting the award and appropriating the funds, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Grant award document