



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Application for a grant from the Criminal Justice Commission to combat organized retail theft

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move to authorize the submittal of an application for a Criminal Justice Commission Organized Retail Theft Grant.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The District Attorney's Office (DAO) seeks Board authorization to apply for a Criminal Justice Commission Organized Retail Theft grant for the purpose of partnering with the Bend Police Department (BPD) to address organized retail theft. The DAO and BPD will work together to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the organized retail theft (ORT) environment in our community. Both agencies believe ORT is occurring more frequently than it is being charged, and that developing strong working relationships with retailers will aid in connecting individual thefts to larger, more organized crime operations.

The goals of the program are to establish relationships with key retailers and develop a plan on how best to address ORT going forward. A Memorandum of Understanding between DAO and BPD would define the program, which is expected to identify training opportunities on ORT, connect with other communities across the state which have successful retailer relationships, and host a series of community-based retailer meetings.

If granted, the funds will be used to support a part time FTE for project management at the DAO, retail theft training for BPD and DAO staff, travel, and the promotion and hosting of local retailer meetings.

The grant cycle would be for ten months starting September 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. This is the first time the Criminal Justice Commission has offered this grant.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

If approved, the application would result in a grant award of approximately \$50,000. About \$23,000 would be used for a 0.2 FTE program manager; \$3,000 for meeting facilitation, materials, and promotion; and \$24,000 for travel and training.

There is no requirement for matching funds.

ATTENDANCE:

Kathleen Meehan Coop, Management Analyst