

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Jim Lenderts, Marijuana Enforcement Officer, Police Services
Kerri Ishmael, Senior Analyst, Grants Administration

SUBJECT

Resolution 2024-125 Supporting a Grant Application for Gray and Black-Market Marijuana Enforcement Funding for Fort Collins Police Services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to obtain support for the City to apply for grant money to support enforcement of gray and black-market marijuana activity for Fort Collins Police Services.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

“Gray Market” is a term that refers to marijuana grown legally then sold in a way that would be illegal. An example would be where someone has a medical card with an “extended plant count” which may allow them to grow up to 99 plants, but instead of using the product for their own medical needs, they sell it on the black market either locally or more likely to someone in another state.

Since 2019 the State has made grant funding available to help address unlicensed and illegal marijuana activity in Colorado. Each year Police Services has applied and been awarded funds through the State’s Gray and Black-Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program to investigate illicit marijuana cultivation and distribution operations. Grant funds received by Police Services through the program have allowed for: (1) investigations of the sale of unregulated Delta-8 THC to minors at local smoke shops (not licensed marijuana businesses); (2) regulatory inspections of commercial establishments relative to recent code changes involving the sale of smoking and vaping products to minors; and (3) investigations in both smoke shops and residences.

In early 2024, Police Services used GBMJ grant funds to investigate an unlicensed smoke shop following repeated complaints of underage tobacco and marijuana sales from parents. A search warrant was served which subsequently resulted in felony charges on the owner.

Funds received through this grant program support Police Services in investigating criminal activities over unlicensed/illegal marijuana, supporting a safer community. To support staff resources in investigating illicit marijuana cultivation and distribution operations, Police Services intends to apply for grant funds under the State’s Gray and Black-Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Support of Police Services in applying to the Gray and Black-Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program does not impact City finances. If the grant is awarded, Police Services will seek appropriation of such grant funds from City Council.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration