



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Perrie McMillen, Manager, Neighborhood Services

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 146, 2024, Making a Supplemental Appropriation of Colorado Division of Criminal Justice Grant Revenues for Various Restorative Justice Services Programs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to appropriate grant revenue to fund Restorative Justice programs within Community Development and Neighborhood Services (“CDNS”). Additional grant funds in the amount of \$13,000 have been awarded from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (“DCJ”) Juvenile Diversion fund for the continued operation of City Restorative Justice programs, including RESTORE for shoplifting offenses and Restorative Justice Conferencing for other offenses. The grant funds are in addition to a grant awarded to Restorative Justice Services earlier this year from DCJ in the amount of \$40,428, for a total award of \$53,428. The first \$40,428 award was included in the Annual Adjustment Ordinance No. 134, 2024, was passed on Second Reading on October 1, 2024. No match is required and the grant period is July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Restorative Justice Services and its three programs: RESTORE for shoplifting offenses, Restorative Justice Conferencing Program (RJCP), and Reflect Program for all other offenses; have been partially grant funded since 2000. The Council yearly accepts grant funds from the DCJ to support Restorative Justice Services. This grant helps fund young people referred to the program from the 8th Judicial District Attorney’s Office (“DA”) and for young people referred in lieu of a summons to the DAs Office. Since it began, Restorative Justice Services has provided a restorative justice alternative to more than 3,200 young people who committed chargeable offenses in our community.

Restorative Justice is an alternative method of holding a young person accountable by facilitating a meeting with the responsible young person, the victim/victim representative, and members of the community to determine the harm done by the crime, and how to repair the harm. By identifying and repairing the harm caused by the crime, Criminal Justice Officials are optimistic that repeat offenses by young people will be reduced and the needs and concerns of the victims and affected community will be addressed.

The programs help young people understand how family, friends, victims, and community are harmed by their actions and hold them accountable for the harm their action cause. The intention is that these young people will make better future decisions and not commit the same or similar crime again. Reducing future

criminal behavior and keeping young people out of the justice system contribute positively to a safer, healthier community. Addressing the needs and concerns of those harmed by crime and community members also has a positive effect on the overall community health and safety. As part of the programs, young people and families are referred to appropriate community resources based on needs identified during program participation.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The additional grant funding for 2024-25 in the amount of \$13,000 to be appropriated and expended in the General Fund from Division of Criminal Justice, Juvenile Diversion Grants, provides funding for personnel to support the continuation of Restorative Justice programs. Funds are distributed to the City on a reimbursement basis.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration