

RESOLUTION 2023-107
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR GRAY AND BLACK MARKET
MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT FUNDING FOR FORT COLLINS POLICE SERVICES

WHEREAS, Fort Collins Police Services (“FCPS”) is applying for a grant through the Gray and Black Market Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program (the “Program”) from the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs (“DOLA”) to fund investigation and prosecution of unlicensed marijuana cultivation and distribution operations (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, as part of the Program grant application process, DOLA requires that the governing body of any entity applying for grant funds pass a resolution to show that it is aware of and supports the application, and recognizes the obligations the grant creates; and

WHEREAS, the City would not be required to provide any matching funds toward the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Program provides financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies and district attorneys through local governments; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of grant money to be dispersed statewide by DOLA amongst applicant agencies and district attorneys is \$900,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Program funding; and

WHEREAS, until submittal of an application, FCPS does not know the amount that may be awarded for FY 2023-2024; and

WHEREAS, in the last FY 2022-2023, FCPS received \$32,339 from the Program; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Police Services continues receiving complaints about the sale of Hemp intoxicants to minors at local smoke shops (not licensed marijuana businesses) and has several active investigations; and

WHEREAS, Program funds were used to investigate complaints in both smoke shops and residences and in one case search warrants were served at two houses in the City and one commercial building in Larimer County, leading to the seizure of 970 marijuana plants and over 28 pounds of illegal marijuana, resulting in felony charges; and

WHEREAS, the current Program expires on June 30, 2023, and Police Services recommends the continuation of the above referenced grey-market and black-market marijuana investigations; and

WHEREAS, FCPS has utilized money from this program to acquire long-term evidence storage units for illegal black-market marijuana, and for an increase in staffing to help with investigations of black-market grow operations in the City; and

WHEREAS, the grant money would allow FCPS to continue to improve neighborhood livability and provide insight into the extent of the problems associated with unlicensed, illegal marijuana activity in the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS, as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That the City Council hereby supports the City's FY 2023-2024 application for a grant through the Program from DOLA to fund the Project; and

Section 3. That if the grant is awarded, the City Council supports the completion of the Project.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 5th day of December, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk