



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 16, 2021
TO: City Council Members
FROM: Turu VanderWiel, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program Application

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Sonora Police Department to submit a Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program (CTFGP) application in an amount not to exceed \$50,000; authorize the City Administrator to execute all documents relating to the grant application, and direct the Police Chief to return to the City Council with the application results and to accept the award.

DISCUSSION

The Sonora Police Department is requesting the City Council authorize the Police Department to submit applications to receive grant funding from the State of California, allocated through the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The purpose of this funding is to address impaired driving, including opportunities and projects to prevent the loss of life, injuries, and property damage caused by driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. These funds are to be used for training, education, prevention, and the enforcement of laws related to DUI of alcohol and other drugs, including cannabis and cannabis products.

In November 2016, California voters passed Proposition 64, a statewide initiative legalizing the cultivation, sale, and adult use of marijuana. In 2018, adult-use and medicinal use marijuana businesses began opening in cities such as ours that chose to grant local cannabis licenses. There is substantial evidence that cannabis use increases the risk of motor vehicle crashes, and driving while under the influence of cannabis has become a significant concern for law enforcement and public safety.

The Police Department would be seeking funds in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to augment training and education, equipment needs, as well as overtime and administrative costs. The funding is for a 24-month grant cycle, and financial expenditures are reimbursed quarterly during the Fiscal Year.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no local match for project awards under this grant.