

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

Honorable Mayor and Members of  
The Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular meeting of  
September 24, 2002

**REQUEST TO INCREASE THE SWORN COMPLEMENT OF POLICE  
DEPARTMENT BY ONE POSITION AND PARTICIPATE IN THE  
REGIONAL T.R.A.P. TASKFORCE**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that City Council:

1. Authorize an increase in the complement of sworn police personnel from 38 positions to 39 positions
2. Authorize the assignment of a police officer to the regional Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention (TRAP) supervised by the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department.
3. Appropriate \$63,644.00 for the salary and benefits (8 months) of the officer assigned to TRAP. Authorize a budgeted revenue amount of \$63,644.00 for reimbursed salary and benefits of the assigned officer.

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 28, 1992 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors implemented by resolution, Vehicle Code section 9250.14 (SB 2139) in Los Angeles County, to impose an additional one dollar vehicle registration fee on vehicles registered in the County. The revenue generated is designated for use in the deterrence, investigation, and prosecution of vehicle theft in Los Angeles County. Under the direction of the Sheriff of Los Angeles County a regional taskforce (TRAP) was developed and placed into operation. The funding for TRAP was recently renewed through Assembly Bill 183. TRAP is now funded through January 2005. Under this funding arrangement, the TRAP program will pay for the full cost (salary and benefits) of an officer assigned to this unit.

**ANALYSIS:**

Staff feels that this is an opportunity to increase the complement of the police department without increasing the operational costs. The City of Hermosa Beach has never participated in the TRAP program. TRAP is organized into six teams that cover different areas of the County to target and investigate those professional thieves that market in vehicle thefts for profit. Our officer would be assigned to the South Bay team that is currently supervised by a sergeant from the Redondo Beach Police Department.

The assignment of an officer to this position provides the officers of our department the experience of working a task force type assignment. A common complaint of small police departments is the lack of special assignments. TRAP is an opportunity to expand the availability of special assignments. As officers would be rotated in and out of this assignment over the years, the department would also benefit from the experience and expertise that officers would bring back to the department. The ranks of the police department already benefit from our long time participation in another regional taskforce known as LA IMPACT. As the police department is rarely at full strength, this assignment will provide additional depth to the police department ranks. In the event that the department became short on staffing, this position could be called back (a 60-day notice is required per the TRAP MOU.) if needed. Certainly in the case of a serious emergency or a special event such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, this officer would still be available to the department.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

TRAP is a state-funded operation that pays the full salary and benefits of each officer assigned to the unit. The City actually pays the salary and benefits of the officer up front on a month to month basis. Each quarter, the City bills these costs to the TRAP unit for reimbursement. Additionally, the City will benefit from the forfeiture of seized assets conducted by the TRAP teams that would be shared with the City due to our participation in the program.

Respectfully submitted:

Concur:

Michael Lavin  
Chief of Police

Stephen Burrell  
City Manager

Fiscal Impact:

Viki Copeland, Finance Director