

**REQUEST TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE SPENDING OF  
LLEBG GRANT FUNDS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that Council:

1. Approve the recommendation of the LLEBG advisory committee to spend the grant funds on cameral surveillance equipment, digital cameras and new generation ballistic vests.
2. Appropriate \$11,450 for the purchase of the recommended equipment and establish a revenue account for the same amount.

**BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Department of Justice has tentatively awarded to the City of Hermosa Beach a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) in the amount of \$11,450. Among the many requirements of this grant, an advisory committee had to be formed to make recommendations on the use of this money. At their regular meeting of October 28, 2003, the City Council authorized staff to form an advisory committee in accordance with the requirements of the LLEBG grant. The advisory committee was to be made up of a minimum of five members, a member of the police department, local prosecutor's office, local courts, local schools and a local non-profit organization.

**ANALYSIS**

On October 29, 2003 the advisory committee met to discuss the possible uses of the grant money. The committee was comprised of the following individuals:

Captain Tom Eckert of the Police Department  
Mr, Ken Meersand, the City Prosecutor for Hermosa Beach  
The Honorable Judge Dudley Gray of South Bay Superior Court  
Father Gary Klauer of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and school  
Mrs. Jean Lombardo of the Hermosa Beach Women's Club

After discussing different ideas, the consensus of the committee was to purchase camera surveillance equipment. The Police Department has a machine called a stealth radar. When the Police Department receives complaints about speeding traffic and other related traffic issues, the Police Department will deploy the stealth radar to determine the volume and speed of traffic in the area of concern. This machine prompted the idea of digital surveillance equipment. This is portable equipment that can be set up at different locations to record activity. This type of equipment should help the

police department in better identifying and responding to problem areas. (Cost estimate - \$4000)

Additionally, there is a need to purchase digital cameras and portable printers for our traffic and patrol officers. These cameras could be utilized to photograph crime scenes, suspects of crimes, traffic accidents and other related needs. Judge Gray felt that the use of this type of equipment (including the digital surveillance equipment mentioned) would be very important in the presentation of criminal cases in court and he strongly urged us to pursue this type of equipment. (Cost estimate - \$2000)

If there are funds remaining after these purchases, the balance will be used for the purchase and testing of new generation ballistic vests for the patrol officers. Currently, all uniformed personnel are required to wear ballistic vests while on duty. Even though ballistic vests have come a long way in weight, flexibility and comfort, they are still very hot especially in the summer time. Staff has learned that the new generation ballistic vests are much more flexible, cooler and lightweight. Any residue of funds will be utilized to test and purchase new vests.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Upon final approval, the LLEBG grant monies (\$11,450) will be funded directly to the City. Under the terms of this grant, the City is required to provide a matching amount of \$1,272.00. It is proposed that this amount come from the Police Department's adopted budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Concur:

MICHAEL LAVIN, CHIEF OF POLICE  
HERMOSA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

STEPHEN BURRELL  
CITY MANAGER

Fiscal Impact:

Viki Copeland, Finance Director