



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: David N. Carmany, City Manager

FROM: Eve R. Irvine, Chief of Police

DATE: March 20, 2012

SUBJECT: Approval to Submit a Grant Application to the Department of Justice for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program Grant for One Police Officer Position.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to submit a COPS Hiring Recovery Program grant application and execute the necessary documents to apply for grant funding to reinstate one police officer position no longer funded in the Police Department budget.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

If awarded, the Department of Justice will contribute \$125,000 over the three-year grant period (approximately \$41,667 per year) toward the salary and benefits of a newly hired police officer. The City will be required to pay the remaining salary and benefits costs during the three-year period, and is required to retain the new hire and pay 100% of the salary and benefits in the fourth year. If awarded, the approximate cost to the City over the four years is \$360,000.

BACKGROUND:

The COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Hiring Recovery Program is a competitive grant program established in 2009 to provide funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire/rehire law enforcement officers in an effort to create and preserve jobs and to increase community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.

In the past three years, the Police Department has lost three budgeted sworn officer positions. Manhattan Beach has applied for COPS funding each year since the program's inception, but has not been awarded funding. Applications are scored primarily on an agency's demonstration of immediate financial distress (layoffs, furloughs, and community unemployment rates) and crime rates. Community policing initiatives are also a factor.

In past years, the COPS Hiring Recovery Program covered 100% of awarded police officer salaries for three years, and the recipient agency was then required to pay for the fourth year of funding.

Significant changes have been made to the 2012 COPS Hiring Recovery Program. Federal funding is capped at \$125,000 per position over the three year period and only agencies which applied for funding in 2011 are eligible to apply this year.

Additionally, agencies which are awarded grant funds for new hire positions (or for reinstatement of unfunded positions removed from an agency's budget) must hire a military veteran who served on active duty for a period of at least 180 days, any part of which occurred on or after September 11, 2001.

DISCUSSION:

The Police Department requests City Council approval to submit a grant application to the Department of Justice COPS Hiring Recovery Program to reinstate one police officer position no longer funded in the Police Department budget. The maximum federal contribution is \$125,000 over the three-year grant period (approximately \$41,667 per year). The City will be required to pay the remaining salary and benefits costs during the three-year period, and is required to retain the new hire and pay 100% of the salary and benefits in the fourth year, at an approximate cost to the City of \$360,000 over the four year period. Award announcements are anticipated to be made in the Fall.