



THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

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STAFF REPORT

MEETING

DATE: December 5, 2017

TO: City Council

FROM: Adam McGill, Chief of Police

PRESENTER: Jim Correa, Police Captain

SUBJECT: **OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY (OTS) STEP GRANT FY 2017/18**

REQUEST

Adopt a resolution accepting a \$97,000 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), revising appropriations and revenues to recognize the grant funding from OTS, and authorizing the Police Department to utilize the grant to continue its education and enforcement of traffic related laws in an attempt to reduce injury and fatal traffic collisions.

DISCUSSION

The Office of Traffic Safety distributes federal funding apportioned to California under the National Highway Safety Act and the Safe, Accountable and Flexible Efficiency Transportation Equity Act. The California Office of Traffic Safety’s mission is to effectively and efficiently administer traffic safety grant funds to reduce traffic deaths, injuries, and economic losses. Grants are used to mitigate traffic safety deficiencies, expand ongoing activity, or develop innovative programs.

Locally, the City of Novato struggles with traffic congestion resulting from increased vehicles on the roads, increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic and increasing number of traffic complaints fielded by the police department. The police department fields numerous traffic related complaints annually. These complaints generally involve speeding, pedestrian interaction with motorists and right of way violations. Each of these complaints is fielded and responded to by the NPD Traffic Section.

As the Department continues to have a high number of DUI arrests, this grant contributes to the Department’s efforts to reduce traffic collisions caused by DUIs. Programs to be implemented under this grant include:

- DUI directed saturation patrols and DUI checkpoints
- Traffic Enforcement for red light, intersection and speed violations
- Distracted driving enforcement

- Motorcycle safety enforcement operations
- Community outreach educational presentations focused on traffic and pedestrian safety

Additional enforcement operations will be directed at locations with a disproportionate number of traffic collisions. These strategies are designed to attract media attention, thus enhancing the overall deterrent effect.

The grant provides funding for the following categories:

- Equipment and supplies \$21,424
- Personnel staffing overtime \$ 71,316
- Training/Travel \$ 4,260

Equipment supplies include laptop computer, Lidar device and DUI Checkpoint supplies. The Training portion of this grant will cover officer training in Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST).

Grant funding cannot replace existing program expenditures, nor can traffic safety funds be used for program maintenance, research, rehabilitation or construction.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact to the City will be the initial expenditure of overtime costs to conduct the various traffic operations. However, since the OTS grant operates through a reimbursement process, there is no direct impact to the City’s Operating Budget. Some police staff time will be required to administer the awarded grant; this staff time is considered part of their normal duties.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the resolution to accept the \$97,000 STEP grant from the OTS, revise appropriations and revenues to recognize the grant funding from OTS, and authorize the Police Department to utilize the grant to continue its education and enforcement of traffic related laws in an attempt to reduce injury and fatal traffic collisions.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Authorize the City Manager to accept the \$97,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.
2. Do not accept the grant from the office of Traffic Safety.

ATTACHMENT

1. Resolution

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVATO

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A \$97,000 GRANT FROM THE OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY, AUTHORIZE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO UTILIZE THE GRANT TO CONTINUE ITS EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE INJURY AND FATAL TRAFFIC COLLISIONS, AND AMEND BUDGET RESOLUTION #2017-039 TO REVISE APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUES TO RECOGNIZE THE GRANT

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Novato has adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018; and

WHEREAS, the City of Novato was awarded a \$97,000 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant from California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to continue its education and enforcement of traffic related laws; and

WHEREAS, the Department continues to have a high number of DUI arrests and this grant contributes to the Department’s efforts to reduce traffic collisions caused by DUIs; programs to be implemented under this grant include:

- DUI directed saturation patrols and DUI checkpoints
- Traffic Enforcement for red light, intersection and speed violations
- Distracted driving enforcement
- Motorcycle safety enforcement operations
- Community outreach educational presentations focused on traffic and pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, additional enforcement operations will be directed at locations with a disproportionate number of traffic collisions. These strategies are designed to attract media attention, thus enhancing the overall deterrent effect. The grant provides funding for the following categories:

- Equipment and supplies \$21,424
- Personnel staffing overtime \$ 71,316
- Training/Travel \$ 4,260

Equipment supplies include laptop computer, Lidar device and DUI Checkpoint supplies. The Training portion of this grant will cover officer training in Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST). Grant funding cannot replace existing program expenditures, nor can traffic safety funds be used for program maintenance, research, rehabilitation or construction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Novato hereby authorizes the City Manager or his designee to accept a \$97,000 grant from OTS, and revise appropriations and revenues in the Department's Special Police Projects Fund budget .

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Novato, Marin County, California, at a meeting thereof, held on the 5th day of December, 2017, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Councilmembers
NOES: Councilmembers
ABSTAIN: Councilmembers
ABSENT: Councilmembers

City Clerk of the City of Novato

City Attorney of the City of Novato