

PUBLIC SAFETY and PERSONNEL, AUDITS, AND HIRING COMMITTEES REPORT relative to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Real Estate Fraud Prosecution (REFP) Program grant.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Chief, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), or designee, to:
 - a. Retroactively apply for and accept the FY 2023-24 REFP Program grant, in the amount of \$463,000, from the County of Los Angeles, for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
 - b. Negotiate and execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant, subject to the review and approval by the City Attorney as to form.
2. AUTHORIZE the LAPD to:
 - a. Spend up to \$463,000 in funding in accordance with the grant award agreement.
 - b. Submit grant reimbursement requests to the grantor and deposit the FY 2023-24 REFP grant funds received under this agreement into the LAPD Grant Fund No. 339/70, account number to be determined.
 - c. Prepare Controller's instructions for any technical adjustments as necessary to implement Mayor and Council intentions, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO); and, authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.
3. AUTHORIZE the Controller to:
 - a. Establish a grant receivable and appropriate up to \$463,000 within the LAPD Grant Fund No. 339/70, account number to be determined, for the receipt and disbursement of the FY 2023-24 REFP Program grant funds;
 - b. Increase appropriations and transfer, as necessary, from FY 2023-24 REFP Program grant funds, Fund No. 339/70, account number to be determined, to Fund No. 100/70, upon submission of proper documentation by the LAPD for sworn salary and overtime costs incurred during the grant performance period, as follows:
 - I. Account No. 1012 Salaries Sworn: \$319,692

II. Account No. 1092 Overtime Sworn: \$40,000

- c. Transfer funds for salaries and overtime sworn reimbursement purposes, up to \$93,808 from the FY 2023-24 REFP Program grant funds, Fund No. 339/70, account number to be determined, and deposit into Fund No. 100/70, Revenue Source Code No. 5346 Related Cost Reimbursements from Grants for fringe benefits, upon submission of proper documentation by the LAPD.
4. AUTHORIZE the continuation of two resolution authority positions through June 30, 2024:
- a. 1 Police Detective II (Class Code 2223-2)
 - b. 1 Police Detective III (Class Code 2223-3)
5. NOTE and FILE the July 12, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners report.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The CAO reports that approval of the recommendations contained in the November 2, 2023 CAO report, attached to the Council File, will authorize the LAPD to accept a grant award in the amount of \$463,000 from the County of Los Angeles for participation in the FY 2023-24 REFP Grant Program. There is no matching requirement associated with this grant award. There is no additional impact to the General Fund.

Financial Policies Statement: The CAO reports that the recommendations contained in the November 2, 2023 CAO report, attached to the Council File, comply with the City's Financial Policies in that, to the extent possible, current operations will be funded by current revenues.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted

Summary:

On January 23, 2024, the Public Safety (PS) Committee considered November 2, 2023 CAO and July 12, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners (Board) reports relative to the FY 2023-24 REFP Program grant. According to the CAO, on July 11, 2023, the Board approved the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) report for the grant application and award acceptance of the 2023-24 REFP Program grant. In accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and through the Board, the LAPD is transmitting the proposed grant application and requests retroactive approval to apply for and accept the grant award in the amount of \$463,000 from the County of Los Angeles (County) for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Pursuant to Section 23788 of the California Government Code, the REFP Fund (Fund) was established in April 2009 for the deposit of fees from the recording of certain real estate transactions by the County. The Fund provides funding for use by local police,

sheriffs, and district attorneys to deter, investigate, and prosecute real estate fraud crimes. The County evaluates applications for funds and provides grant awards to selected jurisdictions based on the number of document titles filed. The LAPD has been a recipient of the REFP Program and recipient of grant funds for 23 years. The grant reimburses a portion of the annual costs of the Real Estate Fraud Unit (REFU), which is part of the Department's Commercial Crimes Division.

The REFU is responsible for administering the City's REFP Program and handles white-collar real estate crimes within the City. The Unit opened 86 new cases in FY 2021-22 and made 18 arrests from cases filed by REFU Detectives. The grant will assist the Department in fully funding two resolution authority positions in FY 2023- 24 consisting of one Police Detective II and one Police Detective III assigned full-time to the REFU. The grant will also provide funding for the overtime costs and fringe benefits of REFU Detectives assigned to investigate white-collar real estate fraud crimes. In addition, the grant will provide funding for travel, equipment, supplies, and miscellaneous expenses projected to be incurred to carry out this program.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the PS Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the CAO report. Subsequently, on February 6, 2024, the Personnel, Audits, and Hiring Committee also considered this matter and after further consideration and having provided an opportunity for further public comment, moved to concur with the PS Committee. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Public Safety Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
LEE:	YES
McOSKER:	YES
PARK:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	NO

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
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Personnel, Audits, and Hiring Committee

COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
McOSKER:	YES
PADILLA:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	YES

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2/6/24

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-