

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: October 1, 2024

CAO File No. 0220-04434-0032

Council File No. 20-1120

Council District: --

To: The Mayor
The Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer 

Reference: Transmittal from the Mayor dated August 30, 2024; referred for report on August 30, 2024

Subject: **FISCAL YEAR 2019 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) – CONTRACTING AUTHORITY COST ADJUSTMENT**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, authorize the Mayor, or designee, to:

1. Increase the existing contracting authority to the amount of \$70,161.39, with the County of Los Angeles, for a public service agreement to continue its committed contribution to the Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) program, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form; and,
2. Prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

SUMMARY

On December 15, 2020, the Council approved the Mayor's Office of Public Safety (Mayor's Office) request to retroactively accept the Fiscal Year 2019 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (FY19 JAG) in the amount of \$2,386,696 from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (Grantor) for a grant performance period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2022. An element of the grant program award included a contract with the County of Los Angeles for legal and probation staff resources for an initial amount of \$719,735. The Mayor's Office now seeks authority to increase the contract amount by \$70,161, to provide continued support to the CLEAR program through the balance of the grant performance period.

The FY19 JAG is a formula grant provided by the Federal government to provide states and local governments with funding necessary to support various criminal justice programs, including law enforcement; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections and community corrections; drug treatment and enforcement; crime victim and witness initiatives; and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. Grant allocations are determined by population and Part 1 violent crime statistics.

Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) Program

The Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) Program, part of the Mayor's Gang Reduction initiative, was established by the City and County to combat gang violence in Los Angeles. The primary goal of CLEAR is to facilitate the recovery of gang-infested communities by decreasing gang crime in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development, as well as City and County criminal justice agencies. Stakeholders include the Mayor's Office, the City Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and the County of Los Angeles Probation Department.

Since the approval of the grant award acceptance in 2020, the City allocated approximately \$1,034,633 to nine CLEAR program sites: Northeast, Newton, Southeast, Foothill, Southwest, Hollenbeck/Boyle Heights, Hollenbeck/Ramona Gardens, Rampart, and 77th. One Deputy City Attorney, one Deputy District Attorney, and one Deputy Probation Officer, as well as 10 existing LAPD personnel, consisting of one Detective, one Sergeant, and eight Police Officers, comprise the staffing element at each of the program sites. Funding was also allocated for nine Deputy City Attorneys in the City Attorney's Office, nine Deputy District Attorneys, and nine Deputy Probation Officers. As the Deputy District Attorney III and Deputy Probation Officer positions are County employees, authority to execute an agreement with the County to disburse \$719,735 in grant funds for County personnel was also approved as part of the grant programmatic agreement.

The Mayor's Office previously modified the County staffing agreement amount by 25-percent under authority of Charter Section 14.8 (a) (1), from \$719,735 to \$899,669, an increase of \$179,933. The Mayor's Office now requests Council authority to increase the contract amount by \$70,161, in order to ensure for the continued vital contributions from the County legal and probation staff, as part of the CLEAR resource team. Based on this approval, the modified contract amount would now total \$969,830. Sufficient savings from the City Attorney Grant Allocation budgetary line item is available to fund this increase.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations in this report will authorize the Mayor's Office to increase the contractual amount of the County of Los Angeles grant allocation for legal and probation personnel funded through the Fiscal Year 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. The current amount for County staff salaries will increase by \$70,161, from \$899,669 to \$969,830. Sufficient savings from the City Attorney JAG Grant Allocation budgetary line item is available to fund this increase. There is no match requirement associated with this grant.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report are in compliance with the City's Financial Policies in that grant funds will be utilized for grant-eligible activities.