

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: August 20, 2021

CAO File No. 0130-02109-0000

Council File No. 21-0645

Council District: --

To: The Mayor
The Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Reference: Board of Police Commissioners transmittal dated June 8, 2021; referred for report August 5, 2021

Subject: **2021-22 CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL CANNABIS TAX FUND GRANT PROGRAM – TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY**

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Chief of Police, or his designee to:
 - a. Retroactively apply for and accept the 2021-22 Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program – Toxicology Laboratory award in the amount of \$362,680 from the State of California, California Highway Patrol for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023;
 - b. Negotiate and execute the grant agreement with the California Highway Patrol for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney as to form;
2. Authorize the Los Angeles Police Department to:
 - a. Submit grant reimbursement requests to the grantor and deposit grant receipts in the Police Department Grant Fund No. 339, Department No. 70;
 - b. Spend up to the grant amount of \$362,680 in accordance with the grant award agreement;
 - c. Prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments as necessary to implement Mayor and Council intentions, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions; and,

3. Authorize the Controller to:

- a. Establish a grant receivable and appropriate \$362,680 to appropriation account number to be determined, within Fund No. 339, Department No. 70, for the receipt and disbursement of the 2021-22 Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program – Toxicology Laboratory funds;
- b. Increase appropriations on an as-needed basis from the 2021-22 Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program – Toxicology Laboratory grant, Fund No. 339, Department No. 70, account number to be determined, to Fund No. 100, Department No. 70, account number and amount as follows:

Account No. 001090	Overtime General	\$7,680
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SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is seeking retroactive approval to apply for and accept a \$965,116 grant award for the 2021-22 Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program – Toxicology Laboratory (Grant) from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

The CHP's Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program provides education, prevention, and enforcement of impaired driving laws related to driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, including cannabis. For Fiscal Year 2021-22, the CHP extended the funding opportunity to toxicology laboratories to improve and advance the standardization of practices in toxicology laboratories supporting and aiding in the enforcement of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID) traffic laws related to alcohol and other drugs, including cannabis and cannabis products. The grant opportunity focuses on eliminating backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence, including toxicology/forensic alcohol and controlled substances/drug chemistry for DUI and/or DUID prosecution, reducing turnaround time for sample testing, purchasing and/or upgrading high-tech equipment to improve testing capabilities, and reducing or eliminating the need for outsourced testing by private laboratories.

The LAPD Forensic Science Division (FSD) was awarded \$362,680 to implement the Cannabinoid Confirmation Test Improvement Program. The program proposes to improve testing capabilities and capacity for the cannabinoid confirmation test method by using grant funds to purchase, and validate, an ultra-high-performance liquid chromatograph with tandem mass spectrometers (UHPLC/MS/MS). The award will also provide funds for staff, on an overtime basis, to validate the new cannabinoid confirmation method in a timeframe that is compatible with the performance period of this grant program.

This program will provide for the following: (1) increase FSD's monthly capacity for cannabinoid confirmation tests by 66 percent; (2) reduce the turn-around time for cannabinoid confirmation test by 57 percent; (3) include OH-THC (a psychoactive delta-9-THC metabolite) in the cannabinoid confirmation testing scope; and (4) reduce the amount of blood specimen required to confirm THC,

OH-THC, and Carboxy-THC, while maintaining the limits of quantitation published by the National Safety Council.

Expense Category	Amount
Overtime General	\$ 7,680
Equipment (UHPLC/MS/MS)	355,000
Total	\$ 362,680

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations within this report will allow for the expenditure of the 2021-22 Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program – Toxicology Laboratory grant award totaling \$362,680. The grant will provide equipment expenses and overtime funding for civilian personnel. No matching funds are required for this grant. There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of these recommendations.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The recommendations provided in this report are in compliance with the City's Financial Policies in that one-time grant funding will be utilized for one-time grant-eligible program expenditures.

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