

PUBLIC SAFETY and PERSONNEL, AUDITS, AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEES' REPORT relative to retroactive approval to apply for and accept a grant award for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Real Estate Fraud Prosecution (REFP) Program grant from the Los Angeles County REFP Trust Fund Committee for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

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

1. AUTHORIZE by resolution authority the following existing positions within the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) through June 30, 2022:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class Code</u>	<u>Class Title</u>
2	2223-2	Detective II
1	2223-3	Detective III

2. AUTHORIZE by resolution authority the following new position within the LAPD through June 30, 2022:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class Code</u>	<u>Class Title</u>
1	2223-2	Detective II

3. AUTHORIZE the Chief, LAPD, or designee to:

- a. Retroactively apply for and accept the grant award for the FY 2021-22 REFP Program grant in the amount of \$953,000 from the County of Los Angeles for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
- b. Execute the 2021-22 REFP Program Grant Agreement with the County of Los Angeles, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form.

4. AUTHORIZE the LAPD to:

- a. Spend up to the grant amount of \$953,000 in accordance with the grant award agreement.
- b. Submit grant reimbursement requests to the grantor and deposit grant receipts in the Police Department Grant Trust Fund No. 339/70.
- 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 (CAO); and, authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

5. AUTHORIZE the Controller to:

- a. Establish a grant receivable and appropriate \$953,000 to appropriation account, account number to be determined, within Fund No. 339/70, for the receipt and disbursement of the 2021-22 REFP Program grant funds.
- b. Transfer appropriations within Fund No. 339/70, as follows:

**From:**

<u>Fund/Dept No.</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
339/70	70XXXX	To Be Determined	\$305,724

**To:**

<u>Fund/Dept No.</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
339/70	70XXXX	Related Costs	\$305,724

- c. Increase appropriations on an as-needed basis from Fund No. 339/70, FY 2021-22 REFP Program grant appropriation, account number to be determined, to Fund No. 100/70, account numbers and amounts as follows:

Account No. 1012	Sworn Salaries	\$576,276
Account No. 1092	Sworn Overtime	\$60,000

Fiscal Impact Statement: The CAO reports that approval of the recommendations contained in the August 16, 2021 CAO report, attached to the Council File, will allow for the expenditure of the 2021-22 REFP Program grant award totaling \$953,000. The grant will provide 100- percent of the salary costs of four resolution authority positions consisting of one Detective III position and three Detective II positions; 100 percent of the fringe benefit costs of one Detective III position, and one Detective II position; 77 percent of fringe benefit costs for one Detective II position; overtime funding for sworn personnel; and other expenses. The General Fund will fund the remaining indirect costs (fringe benefits, central services, and department administration and support). No matching funds are required for this grant.

Fiscal Policies Statement: The CAO reports that the recommendations contained in the August 16, 2021 CAO report, attached to the Council File, are in compliance with the City's Financial Policies in that one-time grant funding will be utilized for grant-eligible program expenditures.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On September 1, 2021, the Public Safety Committee considered an August 16, 2021 CAO report relative to retroactive approval to apply for and accept a grant award for the

FY 2021-22 REFP Program grant from the Los Angeles County REFP Trust Fund Committee for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. According to the CAO, the LAPD is seeking retroactive approval to apply for and accept a \$953,000 grant award for the 2021-22 REFP Program grant from the Los Angeles County Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Trust Fund Committee (County) for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This is the 21st year of funding for this program. To support this program, the LAPD is also requesting for the continuation of three existing resolution authorities for one Detective III and two Detective II positions, and the addition of one new resolution authority for one Detective II position as additional grant funding was allocated this year. The new resolution authority is being requested for tracking purposes and to ensure compliance with grant restrictions in not supplanting other sources of funds with grant funds.

The Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Trust Fund (Trust Fund) is funded by a filing fee for real estate documents recorded in the County, as provided by California Government Code Section 27388. The Trust Fund supports the efforts of local law enforcement and prosecuting agencies to investigate and prosecute real estate fraud. The County evaluates applications for funds and provides grant awards to selected jurisdictions. The level of annual funding provided by the fee is dependent upon the number of document titles filed within the County of Los Angeles.

The grant reimburses a portion of the annual costs of the LAPD's Real Estate Fraud Unit (REFU). The REFU, which is within the LAPD's Commercial Crimes Division, is responsible for administering the City's Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Program. This unit handles white-collar real estate crimes within the City. The REFU is currently comprised of four full-time staff consisting of one Detective III and two Detective II resolution authorities funded by the grant, and one Detective III regular authority funded by the General Fund. The LAPD is requesting that the three existing resolution authority positions be reauthorized, and one additional resolution authority position be authorized for FY 2021-22. The REFU opened 43 new cases in the 2020 calendar year, in addition to the cases carried over from calendar years 2017-2019. Also, the REFU made 12 arrests from cases filed by REFU Detectives. These cases tend to be complex, usually developing into multiple victims being identified, with identity theft continuing to be the starting point for real estate cases.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Public Safety Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the CAO report as detailed in the above recommendations. Subsequently, on October 6, 2021, the Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee also considered this matter and after having provided an opportunity for public comment, moved to concur with the Public Safety Committee. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Public Safety Committee

**COUNCILMEMBER VOTE**

RODRIGUEZ: YES

O'FARRELL: YES

BUSCAINO: YES

LEE: YES

HARRIS-DAWSON: YES

Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee

**COUNCILMEMBER VOTE**

KORETZ: YES

HARRIS-DAWSON: YES

BONIN: YES

ARL

10/6/21

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**