

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: June 6, 2023

CAO File No. 0220-06080-0000

Council File No. 22-1479

Council District: --

To: The Mayor and Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Reference: Transmittal from the Board of Police Commissioners dated November 17, 2022

Subject: **FISCAL YEAR 2022 PROSECUTING COLD CASES USING DNA GRANT PROGRAM - GRANT APPLICATION AND AWARD**

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Authorize the Chief of Police, or designee, to:

- a. Retroactively apply for and accept the grant award of \$500,000 for the Fiscal Year 2022 Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA (FY22 Cold Cases) Grant Program, from the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025;
- b. Negotiate and execute the grant award, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney as to form;
- c. Execute a new contract or amend existing agreements with an outside accredited laboratory to perform advanced DNA testing not currently available in the Forensic Science Division, for a term from the date of contract execution through September 30, 2025, for a sum not to exceed \$321,547, subject to review and approval of the City Attorney as to form;

2. Authorize the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to:

- a. Spend up to \$500,000 in funding in accordance with the grant award agreement;
- b. Submit grant reimbursement requests to the grantor and deposit grant receipts into Fund No. 339, Department No. 70; and,

3. Authorize the Controller to:

- a. Establish a grant receivable and appropriate \$500,000 to an appropriation account to be determined, within Fund No. 339, Department No. 70, for the receipt and disbursement of the FY22 Cold Cases grant funds;
- b. Increase appropriations for the FY22 Cold Cases Grant Program from an appropriation account to be determined, Fund No. 339, Department No. 70, to Fund No. 100, Department No. 70, account numbers and amounts, as follows:

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Overtime General	001090	\$ 51,724
Overtime Sworn	001092	\$100,074

- c. Transfer appropriations from Fund No. 100, Department No. 70, Account Nos. Overtime General, 001090 or Overtime Sworn, 001092, to Fund No. 339, Department No. 70, account numbers to be determined, for fringe benefits and related costs, upon submission of proper documentation by the LAPD, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, of the related costs incurred during the grant performance period;
4. Authorize the LAPD to prepare Controller's instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Police Department (Department) through its Board of Police Commissioners, requests authority to retroactively apply for and subsequently accept a grant award in the amount of \$500,000 from the Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the Fiscal Year 2022 Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA Grant Program. The term of the grant award is from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025;

The Department's South Bureau Homicide Division (SBHD) serves the South Bureau area with a demographic composition of 61% Hispanic, 27% Black, 5% White, 5% Asian, and 2% Others; with approximately 30% below poverty level. This community has been historically undeserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality. From 2010-2019, there have been 1,038 homicides in the South Bureau area and 44.30% have remained unresolved.

The Department intends to utilize the grant award to increase SBHD's use of advanced forensic DNA technology and techniques that will generate leads in successfully resolving and prosecuting

cold case homicides in the South Bureau area. The primary activities will include case identification and selection, utilization of technology (i.e., autosomal single nucleotide polymorphism genotyping and other advanced DNA/forensic techniques not currently available with existing resources. The focus will be cases from 1990-2018 identified as having suspect DNA, and which requires DNA testing and/or analysis. Approximately 50 to 100 cases will be selected for advanced DNA testing. The Department has established partnerships with the District Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Violent Crime Unit and Investigative Genetic Genealogy, all collaborating with the end-goal of increasing the number of homicide cold case prosecutions.

The Department will allocate the grant funding to contract the services of an accredited laboratory that will provide advanced DNA testing (\$321,547); for sworn overtime to conduct investigations (\$100,074); for civilian overtime of criminalists and laboratory technicians (\$51,724); travel for staff training events (\$16,155) and shipping costs for DNA packages to be sent to a contracted laboratory (\$10,500).

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations within this report will have no additional impact to the General Fund and will provide for the expenditure of the Fiscal Year 2022 Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA Program grant award in the amount of \$500,000, for the grant performance period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025. No matching funds are required for this grant.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

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