

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: September 27, 2023

CAO File No. 0130-02109-0002

Council File No. 23-0909

Council District: --

To: The Mayor and Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer 

Reference: Board of Police Commissioners transmittal dated July 18, 2023

Subject: **FISCAL YEARS 2023-24 and 2024-25 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 of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), or designee, to retroactively apply for, negotiate, and accept a grant award of \$700,000 relative to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program (CTFGP) – Toxicology Laboratory, from the State of California, California Highway Patrol (CHP), for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025, and execute any documents or agreements necessary to accept the grant funds, subject to the approval by the City Attorney as to form;
2. Authorize the LAPD to deposit the FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 CTFGP – Toxicology Laboratory grant funds, received under this cooperative agreement, into the Police Department Grant Fund No. 339, Department No. 70, account number to be determined;
3. Authorize the Controller to establish a grant receivable and appropriate up to \$700,000 within the Police Department Grant Fund No. 339, Department No. 70, account number to be determined, for disbursement of the FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 CTFGP – Toxicology Laboratory grant funds; and,
4. Authorize the LAPD to 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.

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is seeking retroactive approval to apply for and accept a \$700,000 grant award for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program (CTFGP) – Toxicology Laboratory, from the California Highway Patrol (CHP), for

the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

The CHP's CTFGP – Toxicology Laboratory provides education, prevention, and enforcement of impaired driving laws related to driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, including cannabis. For FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, the CHP has 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 equipment to improve testing capabilities, and reducing or eliminating the need for outsourced testing by private laboratories.

The LAPD Forensic Science Division Toxicology (TOX) Unit was awarded \$700,000 to implement the Cannabinoid Confirmation Test Improvement Program. The Program proposes to improve testing capabilities and capacity for the cannabinoid confirmation test method. Currently, the TOX Unit meets all Tier 1 confirmatory testing guidelines for cannabinoids, central nervous system depressants, and central nervous system stimulants, but does not meet the recommendations for narcotic analgesics, confirming only six of the eleven recommended drugs. This program will provide for the following: (1) comply with the standards for confirmatory testing of DUID blood specimens; (2) include the top five most prevalent fentanyl analogues in the DUID confirmatory testing scope; (3) reduce the amount of blood specimen used for narcotic analgesic confirmations; and, (4) eliminate the need for subcontracted testing to meet standards for confirmatory testing for narcotic analgesics.

The grant funds will be used to purchase a next generation ultra-high-performance Liquid Chromatograph with Tandem Mass Spectrometers, capable of accurate mass determination and targeted drug detection. Due to its exceptional sensitivity and resolving power, this instrument is capable of analyzing multiple drugs simultaneously using a smaller volume of blood specimen. Funds will also be used for overtime hours spent in validating the new narcotic analgesic confirmation method. The breakdown of the program costs is shown in the table below:

Expense Category	Amount
Equipment	\$ 690,000
Civilian Overtime	10,000
Total	\$ 700,000

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6, Mayor and Council approval of the grant award is required before accepting and receiving the grant award.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendations stated in this report will authorize the Los Angeles Police Department to retroactively accept the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 Cannabis Tax

Fund Grant Program – Toxicology Laboratory grant award of \$700,000 from the State of California, California Highway Patrol, for the two-year term beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. 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 stated in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies in that, to the extent possible, current operations will be funded by current revenues.

MWS:EFR:LMP:04240024