



**THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES**
Executive Director's
Report to the

Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: APRIL 30, 2024

FROM: PORT POLICE

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - ACCEPTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES – COPS HIRING PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 23, AWARD NO. 15JCOPS-23-GG-04512-UHPX

SUMMARY:

Staff requests approval to accept and enter into a Grant Award 15JCOPS-23-GG-04512-UHPX (Grant) with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services – COPS Hiring Program, for the reimbursement of funds allocated to the Harbor Department under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 COPS Hiring Program. If approved, the proposed Federal award will be in the amount of \$1,250,000 with an award date of October 1, 2023.

The item approved for Grant reimbursement subsequent to expenditure by the Harbor Department was the salary and benefit costs for 10 Port Police Officers over a 36-month period. The Grant award is for a five-year period ending September 30, 2028.

If the proposed Grant award is approved, then the Harbor Department will be financially responsible for funding \$1,609,210 of the total \$2,859,210 in salary and benefit costs which will be incurred over a 36-month period. In addition, the Harbor Department will be fully responsible for salary and benefit costs associated with these 10 Port Police Officer positions once the 36-month funding period under the proposed Grant has lapsed.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board):

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(f) and Article III Class 1(6) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Approve the Grant Award, Grant No. 15JCOPS-23-GG-04512-UHPX between the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department and the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for the reimbursement of funds

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allocated to the Harbor Department under the Fiscal Year 2023 COPS Hiring Program;

- 3. Authorize the Deputy Executive Director, Public Safety and Emergency Management, and the Deputy Chief of Police or their designee to execute and the Board Secretary to attest to the Obligating Document for the Award;
- 4. Authorize the Harbor Department to implement the projects approved for funding by the DOJ; and
- 5. Adopt Resolution No. _____ accepting the Grant Award for 15JCOPS-23-GG-04512-UHPX for FY 2023 COPS Hiring Program.

DISCUSSION:

Background/Context: On March 8, 2023, the DOJ announced the FY 2023 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program Funding Opportunity (Transmittal 1). The goal of the FY 2023 COPS Hiring Program is to advance public safety through community policing by funding additional full-time career law enforcement positions to meet law enforcement agencies’ community policing strategies.

On April 11, 2023, the Harbor Department, through an Information Memo (Transmittal 2), advised the Board that the Port Police Division would be applying for 10 Port Police Officers under the FY 2023 COPS Hiring Program.

On November 2, 2023, the Harbor Department was awarded funding for 10 Port Police Officers under the FY 2023 COPS Hiring Program. FY 2023 COPS Hiring Program awards will cover 43.72 percent of the entry-level salary and fringe benefits for each position over a 36-month period. There is a 56.28 percent cost share requirement. Any additional costs for higher than entry-level salaries and fringe benefits will be the responsibility of the Harbor Department.

The following table presents an overview of total costs and funding sources over the 36-month salary funding period associated with the proposed Grant:

Estimated Salary and Benefits per Officer	\$95,307
Multiplied by: # of Officers	10
Equals: Annual Salaries and Benefits	\$953,070
Multiplied by: Grant Years	3
Equals: Total Salaries and Benefits over Grant Period	\$2,859,210
Less: Proposed Grant Award (43.72%)	(\$1,250,000)
Equals: Harbor Department Cost over Grant Period	\$1,609,210

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Funding under this program will support three years of officer salaries within a five-year period of performance to accommodate time needed for recruitment and hiring. The Harbor Department is required to fill the grant funded position for a term of 36 months. If a position funded by the COPS Hiring Program award becomes vacant during the performance period, the Harbor Department is required to take active and timely steps consistent with City of Los Angeles Port Police hiring policies and procedures to fill the position with a new officer to complete the remainder of the 36-month term. Each COPS Hiring Program funded position must be retained for a minimum of 12 months following the three years of federal funding. Absorbing COPS Hiring Program funded positions through attrition (rather than adding the extra positions to the Port Police budget with additional funding) does not meet the retention requirement as per the grant requirements. The retained COPS Hiring Program funded positions should be added to the Port Police budget, over and above the number funded positions that would have existed in the absence of the award. As a result, once the three-year funding period under the proposed Grant has lapsed, the Harbor Department will be fully responsible for funding \$953,070 in annual salary and benefits costs associated with the 10 new entry-level positions as well as any contractual increases to salaries and benefits into perpetuity.

The Harbor Department may request cost reimbursement on a monthly basis. The terms and conditions for this grant are called Award Conditions and are listed in full on the Award document (Transmittal 3). The Award Conditions for this grant include cost principles, audit requirements, administrative requirements, and reporting requirements as follows:

- a) The Harbor Department, using existing staff, shall comply with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, as implemented by 2 C.F.R. Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards".
- b) The Harbor Department, using existing staff, shall submit a Progress Report, as per the DOJ Grant Program Guidelines for biannual and final reports as well as quarterly financial reports (SF425).
- c) As required by the 2023 COPS Office Program Award Owner's Manual, the recipient shall notify the DOJ of developments that have significant impact on award-supported projects.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is the approval of the entrance into a Grant Award with the DOJ for the reimbursement of funds allocated to the Harbor Department under the FY 2023 COPS Hiring Program and implementation of DOJ grant award, which is an administrative activity and an activity involving the addition of safety, security, health, or environmental protection devices for use in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively and categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II Section 2(f) and Article III Class 1 (6) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the proposed Grant Award would authorize the acceptance of the FY 2023 COPS Hiring Program federal funding of \$1,250,000. In addition, if the FY 2023 COPS Hiring Program federal funds are accepted, then the Harbor Department will be obligated to commit \$1,609,210 towards funding 10 Port Police Officers at a total cost of \$2,859,210 over the 36-month Grant period.

In addition to funding \$1,609,210 towards the proposed 10 Port Police Officer positions over the 36-month Grant period, the Harbor Department will be fully responsible for funding \$953,070 in annual salary and benefits as well as any contractual increases to salary and benefits associated with these positions into perpetuity.

Assuming that annual salaries and benefits for the 10 positions equal \$1,000,000 after including contractual salary and benefit increases after the 36-month grant period lapses, and assuming a capitalization rate of 5%, the present value of this funding obligation into perpetuity would be approximately \$20,000,000.

The Harbor Department must front-fund all expenses before requesting reimbursement. Subject to Board approval, funding for the 10 Port Police Officers will be requested in future fiscal years as part of the annual budget process.

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CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed and approved the proposed Grant Award Agreement as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTAL(S):

1. FY 2023 COPS Notice of Funding Opportunity
2. Information Memo to the Board of Harbor Commissioners
3. FY 2023 COPS Hiring Program Award Letter/Package

FIS Approval: JS
CA Approval: SO



GREG D. MCMANUS
Deputy Chief of Police



THOMAS E. GAZSI
Chief of Public Safety and
Emergency Management

APPROVED:



EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director
TEG:GM:mi
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