



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**15-4500

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**Agenda Item Number:** 13.

**Agenda Date:** 9/3/2015

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Police

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Anthony L. Treviño, Interim Chief of Police

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** City Wide

### **SUBJECT:**

Office of National Drug Control Policy HIDTA Grant Submission

### **SUMMARY:**

An ordinance authorizing the submission of a grant application and acceptance of funds upon award, not to exceed \$1,984,061.00, from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant and establishing a budget and personnel complement for the San Antonio HIDTA Initiative, which consists of the San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) HIDTA Task Force, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) HIDTA Task Force, the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) HIDTA Task Force, the South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center, HIDTA Prevention and Support Services, and the Director's Administrative Support Office for the grant period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2017, and maintains funding of seventeen (17) positions.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The HIDTA mission is to reduce drug trafficking in the San Antonio metropolitan area by instituting innovative narcotic enforcement investigations and the seizure of illegally obtained assets in an effort to reduce the profitability of narcotics trafficking.

The San Antonio HIDTA Initiative, multi-agency task force, performs drug interdiction operations designed to enhance the Police Department's narcotics enforcement efforts. This program allows the unit to use task force concepts which provides the capability to cross jurisdictional boundaries by employing law enforcement officers from local, state, and federal levels. The program targets narcotics organizations by focusing on the

middle to upper level traffickers, and investigates the distribution of narcotics and related enterprises. Members of this unit are trained to investigate money laundering, asset structuring, financial auditing, and to apply surveillance techniques necessary to develop intelligence and make arrests.

The South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center has a two-fold responsibility. The center will respond to inquiries from San Antonio and surrounding counties' criminal justice agencies by providing timely intelligence reports gathered from databases of the respective member agencies. Secondly, the center will act as a de-confliction unit for South Texas, which covers an area from Bexar County, south to Brownsville, and west to Del Rio. This section of the center is of paramount importance to the safety of officers in the field. It is responsible for maintaining up to date information gathered from all law enforcement agencies operating in South Texas. With information provided by these agencies, the unit will identify potential conflicts involving officer safety and immediately notify the affected agencies of the potential conflict in order to avoid possible tragic and disastrous consequences.

The Director's Administrative Support Office is responsible for the overall administration and operation of the South Texas HIDTA program. Funds will be utilized for the rental of facilities for the director's office.

Fiscal Year 2016 is the twenty-third year (23<sup>rd</sup>) that this grant has been awarded to the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD). For FY 2016 the total HIDTA budget will not exceed \$1,984,061.00. A preliminary budget breakdown by the seven (7) HIDTA programs is attached. This grant will continue to fund seventeen (17) positions (see attached personnel complement). This grant serves the law enforcement agencies for San Antonio and the surrounding counties.

## **ISSUE:**

This ordinance continues City Council's policy of seeking intergovernmental financial assistance for City crime prevention and enforcement programs, specifically addressing drug crime activity. The program from ONDCP will enhance the City's efforts in dealing with drug trafficking.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

City Council could choose not to pursue this grant funding. However, that alternative would require the General Fund to absorb two (2) Police Sergeant and four (4) Police Detective Investigator positions which are currently paid by the grant at a time when budget austerity would make this difficult. A decision on whether to retain the eleven (11) civilian staff positions would have to be made as well. The benefits of shared intelligence among multiple agencies would be hindered, and the loss of funding for de-confliction center functions could jeopardize officer safety.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total proposed program budget of \$1,984,061.00 is broken up into seven (7) related segments as follows: the San Antonio Police Department HIDTA Task Force \$679,553.00; the DEA HIDTA Task Force \$217,092.00; the HSI HIDTA Task Force \$217,903.00; the DPS HIDTA Task Force \$46,138.00; the South Texas HIDTA Intelligence Center \$547,176.00; the Director's Administrative Support Element \$84,672.00; and the HIDTA Prevention and Support Services \$191,527.00. A General Fund cash match is not required. The grant will continue to fund the seventeen (17) authorized positions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the submission, and if awarded the acceptance, of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grant.