

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ITEM 18, FILE #080632**

SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

File #080632 authorizes the Milwaukee Police Department (“MPD”) to apply for, accept and fund a Truancy Abatement and Burglary Suppression Grant from the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (“MPS”). The \$320,000 grant, along with city participation of \$183,354, provides funding for the salaries and fringe benefits of 6 full-time police officers to reduce truancy and deter daytime burglaries and other criminal activity. This continuing grant is for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

BACKGROUND

In 1993, the Truancy Abatement Burglary Suppression Program (“TABS”) was established to confront the issue of truancy and juvenile crime in the city of Milwaukee. The TABS program began as a collaborative effort between the City, MPS, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Department.

Initially funded by the State of Wisconsin, financial responsibility for the TABS Program was transferred to MPS via state statute effective July 1, 1996. As delineated in Chapter 119 of the Wisconsin Statutes, MPS is directed to do the following:

- The board shall pay the city a sum sufficient to pay the costs of salaries and fringe benefits of 4 law enforcement officers to work on truancy abatement and burglary suppression on a full-time basis.
- The board shall establish 2 youth service centers for the counseling of children who are taken into custody for being absent from school without an acceptable excuse. The board shall contract with the boys and girls clubs of Greater Milwaukee for the operation of the centers.

The 4 police officers assigned to truancy abatement and burglary suppression patrol the City, respond to calls of suspected truancy, make investigative stops of suspected truants, check to ensure that the youths are not wanted for criminal offenses and convey those youths who are identified as truants to either the Mary Ryan Branch (3000 N. Sherman Blvd.) or Don and Sallie Davis Branch (1975 S. 24th St.) of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee.

Prior to the 2003-2004 school year, MPS contracted with the Sheriff’s Department to provide one deputy sheriff at the Mary Ryan Branch and one deputy sheriff at the Don and Sallie Davis Branch. Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, the Milwaukee Police Department took over these responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

Continued participation in this intergovernmental cooperation agreement with MPS results in 6 police officer positions being approximately 64% funded by the TABS Grant.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City’s in-kind participation will be \$183,354.

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