

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
CONTINGENT FUND REQUEST INFORMATION FORM

DEPT.: Legislative Reference Bureau CONTACT PERSON & PHONE NO.: Marianne Walsh, Research Manager, x8686

A. REASON FOR REQUEST (Refer to File 921360 for definitions)

CHECK ONE: EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES
 OBLIGATORY CIRCUMSTANCES
 FISCAL ADVANTAGE/COMPLIANCE WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPALS

B. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. State the action requested, including the dollar amount and specific departmental accounts(s) to which the Contingent Fund appropriation would be made.
 This resolution transfers \$28,000 from the 2007 Common Council Contingent Fund (Account Number 0001 9990 C001 006300) to the Department of Neighborhood Services (Equipment Account Number 0001 1320 R999 006800) for the purchase of up to 10 Tripwire Camera Systems for surveillance of graffiti vandalism and criminal activity.

2. State the purpose of the action requested which includes the program, service or activity to be supported by the funding, as well as the objective(s) to be accomplished.
 Graffiti vandalism usually occurs during late-night and early morning hours, under cover of darkness, with no witnesses. Tripwire Camera Systems can be placed in locations with a high incidence rate for graffiti vandalism. The cameras are activated by motion, and information and images of the graffiti vandalism as it is taking place are transmitted within seconds to a receiver. The info and images can be used as a tool in identification and apprehension of graffiti vandals, as well as linking the perpetrators to other historical graffiti incidents.

3. Describe the circumstances which prompt the request.
 Graffiti vandalism on public and privately owned buildings and structures costs the City of Milwaukee hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Graffiti devalues neighborhoods and business areas because it gives the appearance of lawlessness and rampant criminal activity. As stated in Item #2, graffiti vandalism often occurs under cover of darkness, with no witnesses. By placing Tripwire Camera Systems in locations where repeated graffiti incidents have occurred, information and images of the graffiti vandalism can be captured as the event takes place. The info and images can be used by the Department of Neighborhood Services and law enforcement to identify and apprehend the vandals, and possibly link them to other historical graffiti incidents. The graffiti may also be removed in a more timely manner, since DNS will have more rapid notification of its occurrence.

4. What are the consequences of not providing the program, service, or activity which is funded by this request?
 Graffiti vandalism will continue to flourish, and the same locations that are currently a magnet for repeated graffiti vandalism will continue to be tagged.

5. Explain why funds authorized in the Budget are insufficient to provide for the program, service, or activity in question.

When the Department of Neighborhood Services prepared its 2007 requested budget in the spring of 2006, it could not have foreseen the need to provide funding for Tripwire Camera Systems. The Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee discussed the use of Tripwires Cameras in the spring of 2007.

5a. Are there any unexpended funds in the departmental control account for which this appropriation is requested, that could be used to fund this request?

No, the Department of Neighborhood Services does not have funds available for this equipment.

5b. What are the consequences of using budgeted operating funds for this request?

If other budgeted DNS operating funds were utilized to purchase Tripwire Cameras, DNS would have a shortfall in another account.

6. State why funding was not included in the Budget.

See explanation under Item #5.

7. Will the conditions prompting the request be limited to the current year, or will they continue into the following year?

It is highly unlikely that graffiti vandalism will end in 2007. It will likely continue indefinitely.

8. Has your department (Dept. of Neighborhood Services) made a similar Contingent Fund request in previous years?

YES NO

*If yes, what is the most recent year the request was made?

9. Will this funding be used to implement provisions of a collective bargaining agreement? YES NO

10. Will the funding being requested provide a level of service authorized by the Budget? YES NO

*If yes, why can't your department accomplish the authorized service level with the authorized funding level?

11. Will the requested funding provide a level of service higher than that authorized by the Budget? X YES NO

*If yes, why is a higher service level necessary?

It will provide the DNS instant notification of graffiti vandalism as it occurs, which may result in its removal in a more timely manner. In addition, the info and images recorded by the Tripwire Camera Systems may assist in the identification and apprehension of the perpetrators, and possibly link them to other historical graffiti incidents.

*What is the estimated amount of additional service units to be provided if the entire Contingent Fund request is approved?

The \$28,000 would fund not more than 10 Tripwire Camera Systems.

12. What performance measures and sub-measures are affected by this request, and what are the anticipated changes if the entire Contingent Fund request is approved?

See response under Item #11.

13. What reductions to performance measures are expected if the request is not approved?

Graffiti vandalism would continue to flourish, and the same locations that currently are a magnet for repeated graffiti vandalism would continue to be tagged.

14. Is any grant funding associated with the program service, or activity pertaining to the request? YES X NO

*If yes, name the grant and current year amount.

15. Will the program, service, or activity affect any electronic data processing system? YES X NO

The following questions only apply to Contingent Fund requests which transfer appropriations into capital purpose accounts:

16. Does this request transfer an appropriation into a capital purpose subaccount? YES NO

*If yes, are similar projects planned and funding available in a capital purpose (parent) account for the current year?

17. Why is the project for which Contingent Funds are requested more important than other similar projects?

18. Does this request fund a project outside the normal order of planned projects of a kind which are funded through a capital purpose (parent) account for the current year? YES NO

*If yes, what is the consequence of deferring the lowest priority planned project until next year?

19. Was this project included in the Department's Budget request? YES NO

*If not, why not?

If you have any questions about the completion of this form, you may call the **Fiscal Research Manager at extension 8686.**

C. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION. PLEASE SEND COPIES OF YOUR RESPONSE TO:

Staff Assistant, Finance & Personnel Committee, Room 205, City Hall (6 COPIES)
Special Assistant, Finance & Personnel Committee, Room 205, City Hall (1 COPY)
Fiscal Research Manager, LRB-Common Council, Room B-11, City Hall (2 COPIES)
Budget & Management Director, DOA, Room 307, City Hall (2 COPIES)