

Reply to Common Council File No. 011363

From DOA-Budget and Management Division

January 31, 2002

Ref: 02019

Common Council File 011363 contains a resolution relating to the Police Department's 2002 asset forfeiture plan. This file would change two files brought before the December 19, 2001 Finance and Personnel meeting: Common Council file 011086, authorizing the acceptance and expenditure of \$144,500 in Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds on 7 projects and Common Council File 011086, containing the Police Department's 2002 Plan for the use of Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds. Common Council file 011086 was placed on file by the Common Council on December 21, 2001.

The majority of asset forfeiture funds are used for continuing annually funded projects such as mobile data terminal maintenance fees (\$3,000), tactical enforcement unit supplies (\$3,000), and canine and mounted patrol unit expenses (\$78,000). The remaining funds are used for one-time purchases. The Police Department's plan for 2002 includes; vehicle for mounted patrol unit (\$32,000), motor boat engine (\$10,000), replacement name tags (\$15,000), and surveillance equipment for the vice and intelligence divisions (\$3,500).

Common Council File 011363 changes the 2002 asset forfeiture plan by placing the highest priority on the installation of video surveillance equipment capable of making a permanent video record in all police prisoner transportation vehicles. Equipment and installation costs for this type of equipment in all police prisoner transport vehicles is estimated between \$1.1 million and \$1.5 million. Considering that the 1998 to 2000 asset forfeiture expenditure average has only been approximately \$425,000, this change would eliminate the department's ability to fund such programs and expenses such as mounted horse patrol, canine unit, cellular phones for officers, and replacement equipment for operations and investigative units.

RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT APPROVE COMMON COUNCIL FILE 011363, A RESOLUTION WHICH ALTERS THE MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 2002 ASSET FORFEITURE PLAN BY PLACING THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE INSTALLATION OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT IN ALL POLICE PRISONER TRANSPORT VEHICLES.



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