

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ITEM 12, FILE #081171

JANUARY 8, 2009

File #081171 authorizes the Milwaukee Police Department to accept and fund an Operation Ceasefire Program Grant in the amount of \$32,657 from the U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The 100% donor funded grant is for the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

Proceeds are used to fund overtime expenses for a detective or alternate assigned to the Ceasefire Task Force. This detective, in concert with an Assistant District Attorney, reviews all arrests of persons found in possession of a firearm who also have a prior firearm conviction. A decision is then made, based on criminal history and the seriousness of the existing offense, whether the case remains in circuit court for state prosecution or is referred for federal prosecution. The detective assigned to the Ceasefire Task Force may also compare DNA samples from felony suspects with evidence at scenes of crimes and conduct criminal interviews or re-interviews.

BACKGROUND

In January 2000, the MPD accepted its first Operation Ceasefire Program Grant. The project was modeled after a Richmond, Virginia program initiated in 1997 titled “Project Exile”. Under Project Exile, persons with a previous conviction who were found in possession of a firearm were referred to federal court, rather than local court, for prosecution. By prosecuting in federal court, these criminals would receive swifter and harsher sentences than those portioned out at the local level. Project Exile was correlated with a decrease in the number of murders and violent crimes committed in Richmond.

From January 1, 2000 through September 30, 2005, the MPD accepted Operation Ceasefire Program Grants in amounts ranging from a high of \$135,221 (10/01/00 – 9/30/01) to a low of \$21,000 (10/01/03 – 9/30/04). All grants in these years required city participation, which ranged between 41% and 47%. Beginning October 1, 2005, a total of \$29,600 has been granted by the U.S. Department of Justice for Operation Ceasefire with no city participation required.

The table below provides statistics relevant to the initiative for the past two years.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008 (*)</u>
Cases Reviewed by Ceasefire Task Force	1218	1460
Firearms Recovered by MPD	2672	2319
State Misdemeanor	302	278
State Felony	475	529
Federal Felony	<u>87</u>	<u>62</u>
Total Number of Persons Charged	864	869
No Processed	196	379
Cases Referred for Other Prosecution	53	45
Cases Pending for Further Review	105	167

(*) Thru December 28, 2008

DISCUSSION

File #081171 authorizes the acceptance and funding of \$32,657 from the U.S. Department of Justice – Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for the Milwaukee Police Department’s Operation Ceasefire program.

The \$32,657 continuing grant runs from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009 and is 100% grantor funded.

FISCAL IMPACT

The grant requires no City financial participation and has no impact on the tax levy.

cc: Marianne Walsh
W. Martin Morics
Captain Diana Rowe
Lieutenant Gary Gacek
Barbara Butler

Prepared by:
Michael Talarczyk
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
286-8661
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