

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ITEM 8, FILE #081540**

MARCH 11, 2009

File #081540 authorizes the Milwaukee Police Department to apply for, accept and fund a COPS Child Sexual Predator Program Grant in the amount of \$96,067. Proceeds will be used to fund MPD participation in a multi-jurisdictional Wisconsin Child Sexual Predator Task Force. The 100% donor funded grant encompasses the 21-month period from January 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (“WiDOJ”) and the MPD established the Wisconsin Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force in 1998. The task force investigates the computer facilitated sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, conducting both proactive investigations as well as responding to requests for investigative assistance from local law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin. This task force has grown to include 48 affiliate members throughout the state. **File #071025** approved continued participation in this program, accepting \$85,000 from the WiDOJ to fund Sensitive Crimes Division officer overtime, training, computer equipment, Internet and cell phone service for the period January 1, 2007 to December 30, 2008.

Currently however, there is no single entity that is responsible for both proactively seeking out sex offenders before they victimize children and reactively arresting sex offenders who abscond from supervision or fail to register. This will be the purpose of the Wisconsin Child Sexual Predator Task Force. The task force will seek to proactively identify, locate and arrest those individuals who utilize the Internet to meet and sexually victimize children and will aggressively seek to identify, arrest, and incarcerate those child sexual predators who have absconded from supervision or failed to register.

The Wisconsin Child Sexual Predator Task Force will be composed of the WiDOJ, the MPD, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, the United States Marshal’s Service, and the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. The inclusion of the U.S. Marshal’s Service and the MPD ensures that a heavy investigative focus is given to the City of Milwaukee, an area where a disproportionate number of sex offenders reside.

DISCUSSION

This grant will provide monies for MPD’s participation in the Wisconsin Child Sexual Predator Task Force. The \$96,067 grant will fund overtime for 4 Detectives from the High Technology Unit as well as fund equipment necessary to increase departmental forensic capabilities. No position authority is contingent on this grant.

FISCAL IMPACT

Acceptance of this grant requires no city share and has no impact on the tax levy.

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