

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
FILE #090875

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

File #090875 authorizes the Milwaukee Police Department to accept and fund a renewal of a Operation Ceasefire Program Grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”). The 100% donor funded grant is for the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

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%. For the 3-year period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2008, a total of \$29,600 was granted by ATF for Operation Ceasefire, representing a significant increase in grantor funding, although no city participation was required. Council File #081171 authorized the acceptance of \$32,657 from ATF for the period October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009.

**DISCUSSION**

This file authorizes the acceptance and funding of a \$25,000 continuing grant to fund MPD overtime expenses when participating on the Ceasefire Task Force. The 100% donor funded grant covers the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, and represents a \$7,657 decrease in funding for this initiative (roughly 23.5%) versus the prior year. The table below provides recent activity statistics related to Operation Ceasefire.

**OPERATION CEASEFIRE RELATED ACTIVITY**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009 (*)</u>
Cases Reviewed by Ceasefire Task Force	1218	1460	1360
Firearms Recovered by MPD	2672	2319	2016
State Misdemeanor or Felony	777	807	517
Federal Felony	<u>87</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>61</u>
Total Number of Persons Charged	864	869	578

(\*) Thru November 11, 2009

**FISCAL IMPACT**

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

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