



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: POLICE CHIEF HONDA
ASSISTANT CHIEF SIMS

SUBJECT: ALCOHOL POLICING PARTNERSHIP (APP) GRANT

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

Problematic alcohol retail outlets can increase crime and deteriorate the quality of life in neighborhoods. Communities with high concentration of alcohol outlets experience a greater number of alcohol-related problems and contribute disproportionately to the incidence of drug dealing, public drunkenness, drunk driving, underage drinking, assaults, and other conditions that cause neighborhood decay.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, FY 21/22 Alcohol Policing Partnership (APP) grant in the amount of \$73,872, to reduce crime and public nuisance problems associated with alcohol beverage outlets, and to execute all required documents, future amendments, if any, and appropriate funds to the grant budget.

DISCUSSION:

In 1995, the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) embarked on a new and innovative approach to broaden and increase the level of alcoholic beverage law enforcement by working in partnership with cities and counties through a grant assistance program. The mission is to work with law enforcement agencies to develop an effective, comprehensive and strategic approach to eliminating the crime and public nuisance problems associated with problem alcoholic beverage outlets, and then institutionalize those approaches within the local police agency.

Budget reductions at the State and local level greatly reduced law enforcement staff assigned to alcoholic beverage law enforcement. Many of the State's police and sheriff's departments re-prioritized their missions and diverted their ABC-related enforcement resources to other areas like patrol. There's now a strong movement by cities and communities for more regulation and education to prevent crime as it relates to the increasing number of alcohol outlets.

The main goals of the program are to:

- (a) Establish closer relationships between ABC district office, community and police;
- (b) Target licensed outlets that cause alcohol-related crimes;
- (c) Reduce alcohol related disorder issues; and
- (d) Maintain a training program that addresses alcohol related issues.

The Watsonville Police Department (WPD) is committed to the grant's goals and objectives. Some of the objectives include identifying and targeting problematic establishments, minor decoy operations, shoulder tap operations and training for local law enforcement. In addition, the WPD will be coordinating Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol Related Crime Tendencies (IMPACT) operations to ensure that retailers are compliant with state laws, ABC license conditions and the City's alcohol ordinance. Retail licensees will also have the opportunity to attend a Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drug (LEAD) Program which has been proven to be an effective prevention strategy that reduces problematic outlets.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Approval of the APP grant is consistent with the Strategic Plan Goal 06-Public Safety. The APP grant supports the goal by focusing its efforts on problematic licensed outlets that cause crime in an effort to reduce alcohol related disorder.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The APP Grant in the amount of \$73,872 does not require local match funds and has no financial impact to the General Fund.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The City Council may choose to not accept these grant funds, but enforcement of alcohol-related issues and problematic alcohol outlets will continue to be sporadic as time allows and funded through general fund rather than alternative revenue sources.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None.