



**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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TO: Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair  
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel  
County Administrator

FROM: Herbert Mahony, Undersheriff

DATE: September 19, 2007

SUBJECT: Safe Communities Grant (Drive Michigan Safely)

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Sheriff's Office is requesting the ratification of the County Administrator's signature for the 2007-2008 electronic submission for the Safe Communities Grant application. Funding is being made available through the Office of Highway Safety Planning for this grant program for the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. This grant is in the amount of \$99,839. The electronic application process was developed by the Office of Highway Safety Planning to expedite the application process and facilitate agencies applying for funding.

**BACKGROUND:**

It should be noted that the Safe Communities Grant was previously submitted as two separate grants: the Youth Alcohol Grant and the Drive Michigan Safely Grant. The projects are now being submitted under one grant application to the State Police, however the enforcement activities will continue to be operated as they have been in the past.

In 2005, there were 1,129 fatalities and 90,510 injuries caused by traffic crashes on Michigan roads. Approximately 17.3% (195) of the people who died in fatal crashes were unbelted (when belts were available), while 36.5% (412) of fatal crashes involved alcohol and/or drugs.

The number of unbelted occupants and drunk drivers on Michigan roadways must be reduced. High visibility enforcement has a strong deterrent effect on drivers by giving the perception of an increased risk of being pulled over and issued a citation. The presence of continuous enforcement saturating an area will provide communities with the message of law enforcement's diligence in addressing unbelted occupants and drunk drivers.

Overtime enforcement will be conducted in the highly populated and/or well-traveled Michigan counties. Crash data has been compiled and reviewed on both a statewide and countywide basis to determine the areas with a continued high rate of alcohol-related crashes, injuries and fatalities.

Safety belt enforcement zones will be conducted to identify, stop, and ticket safety belt violators. Enforcement zones are stationary areas where a predetermined section of roadway is designated for intensive safety belt enforcement. Officers work cooperatively in a group rather than in a single vehicle. The enforcement zone strategy is very similar to the strategy that has been used in the past to detect and deter speeding. The location will be marked with highly visible signs notifying motorists that they are in a safety belt enforcement zone.

Based on the potential for increased enforcement visibility and media coverage in Michigan, Washtenaw County will participate in the statewide traffic enforcement program, Drive Michigan Safely Task Force, which targets safety belt violations and impaired drivers.

Washtenaw County will work cooperatively with state and local law enforcement agencies to identify high crash or low belt use locations and conduct safety belt and impaired driving enforcement during the national mobilization periods, as well as throughout the year.

**IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:**

This request will have no impact on County personnel and procedures. No positions will be created or eliminated by this resolution.

**IMPACT ON BUDGET:**

All direct costs of the program are State funded and will therefore have no direct impact on the General Fund Budget.

**IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:**

None

**IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:**

The Ann Arbor Police Department, Pittsfield Department of Public Safety, the University of Michigan Department of Public Safety, Milan Police Department, Chelsea Police Department, and the Saline Police Department are all participating in this project being coordinated by the Sheriff's Office.

**CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:**

Conforms to County Policies

**ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:**

Resolution

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE ON THE ELECTRONIC GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY PLANNING, FOR THE SAFE COMMUNITIES 2007 - 2008 GRANT PROGRAM. THE GRANT PROGRAM IS FOR ONE YEAR, WITH A GRANT FISCAL YEAR OF OCTOBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,839. AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD; AMMENDING THE BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN DELEGATE CONTRACTS.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 3, 2007

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office and Washtenaw County have diligently maintained efforts to better serve the citizens of Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office wishes to further enhance its delivery of law enforcement services to the community, within the realm of community oriented policing; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office has submitted an electronic application for a grant award from the State of Michigan for funding in the amount of \$99,839 being made available through the Office of Highway Safety Planning; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the County Administrator's Office, the Finance Department, Human Resources, Corporation Counsel, and the Ways and Means Committee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the signature of the County Administrator on the electronic application to the State of Michigan for grant funding in the amount of \$99,839 through the Office of Highway Safety Planning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners takes the following actions contingent upon receipt of the grant award in conformity with the grant application:

1. Authorizing the Chair of the Board or the County Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award
2. Amending the budget, as attached hereto and made a part hereof
3. Authorizing the Administrator to sign the delegate contracts in conformity with the application/award upon review of Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk (IF APPLICABLE)

**Sheriff  
Safe Communities Grant  
10/1/07 – 9/30/08  
1330075000**