



Cover Memorandum/Staff Report

File #: 24-1371

Agenda Date: 11/4/2024

Item #: 6.G.

TO: Mayor and Commissioners
FROM: Chief Russ Mager, Police Department
THROUGH: Terrence R. Moore, ICMA-CM
DATE: November 4, 2024

APPROVAL OF APPLICATION TO AND AWARD OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) FY 2024-25 OCCUPANT PROTECTION/CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve application and award of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) FY 24/25 Occupant Protection/Child Passenger Safety program grant.

Background:

The Police Department is requesting approval to submit an application and accept an award for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) FY 24/25 Occupant Protection/Child Passenger Safety program. Funding from this grant provides for overtime salary for officers that will engage in educational and enforcement activities associated with this program.

Studies show that when manufactured seat belts and child restrains are properly installed and utilized, they can save lives and prevent injuries. In 2023, there were 3,271 crashes recorded in the City of Delray Beach which resulted in 15 fatalities and over 665 injuries. In 2023, according to the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration (NHTSA), the user rate for seat belts in the State of Florida was 89.4%. In Palm Beach County the user rate was 90.1%.

According to the FDOT FY2025 Highway Safety Matrix, Delray Beach ranked #4 out of 104 cities with a population of 15,000-74,999 in regards to Occupant Protection. The FDOT FY2025 Highway Safety Matrix also ranked Palm Beach County #3 out of 26 counties. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of deaths in the U.S. The National Safety Council (NSC) estimate of motor-vehicle deaths in the first six months of 2024 is 20,900, nearly unchanged from the revised estimate of 20,930 in 2023.

Safety belt citation information shows that many residents and their children are unrestrained occupants. During the duration of the program, if awarded, the members of the Police Department's Traffic Division/Motors Unit will conduct high visibility enforcement on major roadways where the majority of crashes occur in the City of Delray Beach as well as continued traffic safety belt enforcement. Continued education will be provided through the issuance of warnings and citations. Solar powered ASL message boards and social media posts will be utilized to further educate drivers on the importance of utilizing their safety belts.

If FDOT approves our application, we will be awarded \$25,000 for the education and enforcement efforts.

City Attorney Review:

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency.

Funding Source/Financial Impact:

The reimbursable overtime for FY 24/25 is funded in 001-21-110-521.14-20 (Special Services - Reimbursable Overtime) account.

Timing of Request:

In order to start grant activities on project schedule, it is important that grant application and award is approved in November 2024.