



Legislation Text

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TO: Mayor and Commissioners
FROM: Chief Russ Mager, Police Department
THROUGH: Terrence R. Moore, ICMA-CM
DATE: November 7, 2023

APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATION AND AWARD/FDOT/SPEED/AGGRESSIVE DRIVING ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve application and award for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) FY 23/24 Speed/Aggressive Driving Enforcement program.

Background:

The Police Department is requesting approval to submit an application and accept an award for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) FY 23/24 Speed/Aggressive Driving Enforcement program. Funding from this grant provides for overtime salary for officers that will engage in speed/aggressive driving enforcement activities. The Delray Beach Police Department believes that this funding will help to provide the citizens of Delray Beach with safer roads.

FDOT's Highway Safety Program is designed to develop, implement, and manage a data-driven comprehensive traffic safety program aimed at saving lives, preventing injuries, and reducing related costs associated with traffic crashes on Florida's roadways. The Delray Beach Police Department seeks to protect the citizens of the City by increasing education and enforcement of highway safety regulations. This grant will provide funding support for those efforts. During the duration of the program, the members of the Police Department's Traffic Division/Motors Unit will conduct high visibility enforcement at major intersections where the majority of crashes occur in the City of Delray Beach. The unit will deploy to documented roadways where speeding is a problem and vigorously conduct speed enforcement utilizing education, and through the issuance of warnings and citations.

From 2017 through 2021, the City of Delray Beach has seen an increase in vehicular crashes due to speeding and aggressive driving and the growth of residents and vacationers who visit the downtown area. Palm Beach County is currently ranked 1st out of 26 counties in Group I for Speed/Aggressive Driving, which was published in the FDOT FY2024 Highway Safety Matrix-Ranking of Florida Counties. Delray Beach is currently ranked 3rd out of 104 cities for Speed/Aggressive Driving, which was published in the FDOT FY2024 Highway Safety Matrix-Ranking of Florida Cities. The city of Delray Beach has been directly impacted by increased serious bodily injury/fatality crash trends and has averaged 5.2 traffic fatalities per year between 2017-2021. It is this agency's goal to continue increasing safety awareness and reduce injury accidents and fatalities.

If FDOT approves our application, we will be awarded \$120,000 for the education and enforcement efforts, as well as \$12,500 for purchase of speed measuring devices to support the education and

enforcement efforts, for a total award of \$132,500.

City Attorney Review:

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency.

Funding Source/Financial Impact:

The reimbursable overtime for FY 23/24 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 2023.