

DATE ISSUED: May 7, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-100

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of May 12, 2004

SUBJECT: San Diego Regional Terrorist Threat Assessment and Training
Center (RTAC) Grant and Fiscal Agency

REFERENCE:

SUMMARY:

Issue: Resolution authorizing the Chief of Police, on behalf of the City Manager, to apply for, accept, manage and expend funds from the State of California Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program for the purpose of establishing and operating the San Diego Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center (RTAC), and to act as the single Fiscal Agent for the San Diego / Imperial Counties RTAC Approval Authority Body.

Manager's Recommendation: Adopt the proposed Resolution.

Other Recommendations: None

Fiscal Impact: None

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP), is providing funding to the State of California for emergency prevention, preparedness and response personnel to prevent, deter, respond to and recover from threats and incidents of terrorism. The Fiscal Year 2004 Homeland Security Grant Program will support three separate programs: the State Homeland Security Program, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP), and the Citizen Corps Program.

The State of California Office of Homeland Security, through the LETPP, is providing \$2,000,000 grants for each of the four Area RTAC's in California (San Diego/Imperial Counties, Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley).

Planning and coordination for this project has been ongoing since September 2003.

Agency representatives have visited the New York "Chelsea Project" as well as the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) in order to view other multi-agency efforts and gain from their experiences and expertise. The California Border Alliance Group (CBAG) High Impact Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Executive Committee formed a working group and approved the concept for organization and oversight of a Regional Intelligence Center. The Center will be overseen and guided by an executive board composed of the San Diego Sheriff, Imperial County Sheriff, San Diego Police Department Chief, and the Special Agents in Charge of the California Department of Justice – Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The CBAG is providing staff to support the effort in the areas of administration and grant management. The grantee will be the San Diego Police Department, which is also the single fiscal agent for the region's HIDTA grants to State and local agencies.

Under this program, the City of San Diego receives the grant for the San Diego RTAC and acts as the single fiscal agent for the award. This grant is administered by the San Diego Police Department, which coordinates all fiscal matters between the State of California Office of Homeland Security and the San Diego RTAC. The City is compensated for the Police Department's special efforts by receiving up to 3% of the funding expended. These segregated funds are to be used to compensate both the City Auditor and the Police Department for efforts on behalf of the San Diego RTAC. There are no requirements for ongoing programs or expenses after the end of the grant

The acceptance of this grant will facilitate information sharing within the Regional Intelligence Center, including the San Diego / Imperial County Narcotics Information Network (NIN), California Southwest Border Intelligence Group (ICE), San Diego Police, and San Diego Sheriff's Intelligence Units, and intelligence units from the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, DEA, FBI, Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and California Anti-Terrorism Information Center (CATIC). The Regional Terrorist Threat Assessment Center (RTAC), supported on-site by ARJIS (Automated Regional Justice Information System), will focus on terrorism and homeland security issues with an anticipated nexus to drug trafficking along the Southwest Border area.

An additional strategy of this project will be to co-locate several major HIDTA-funded task forces within the RTAC, forming not only a true joint intelligence center, but also a multi-agency, collocated law enforcement complex, collocating not only the region's intelligence units, but also many of the collectors and consumers of intelligence. The entire HIDTA Major Mexican Traffickers Task Force in San Diego County, San Diego Financial Task Force, San Diego Violent Crime Task Force, National Marijuana Public Lands and Clandestine Lab Enforcement Group will be housed in the same complex as the Regional Intelligence Center. We are planning for participation by the first-responder

communities (Fire, Public Health, EMS) as well as key private sector infrastructure security representatives within the overall framework.

Significant in-kind support is anticipated from other Federal and non-governmental programs such as the Bureau of Justice Assistance, National Science Foundation, and the California Space Authority, providing significant value to the collocated task forces and the region as a whole. The Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program will provide over \$2 Million. The California Border Alliance Group HIDTA Management and Coordination Initiative and Drug Demand Reduction personnel will also be housed in the facility, as will the USDOJ Border Research and Technology Center. Two general locations under consideration include Downtown San Diego or Kearny Mesa, areas close to most of the parent agencies and centrally located with access to the major highways. In the Imperial Valley, the Imperial County Narcotic Task Force and the Major Mexican Traffickers Task Force will be moved into the Law Enforcement Coordination Center.

SUMMARY

The adoption of this Resolution will enable the San Diego Police Department to accept and manage a \$2,000,000 grant from the Office of Homeland Security. These funds will enable San Diego and Imperial Counties to create a comprehensive, large-scale Regional Intelligence Center and Terrorist Threat Assessment Center. The goal is to co-locate multiple intelligence-based organizations and improve the coordination and efficiency of investigations and enforcement in our region.

The benefits of information sharing, voice and data connectivity, and mutual support between Homeland Security, Drug Law Enforcement, and all other Law Enforcement agencies and task forces are readily apparent and widely recognized as an absolute necessity. The integration and participation of intelligence units supporting these entities is essential to insure complete threat assessments, indications and warnings for all Law Enforcement and Public Safety efforts in this critical region.

It is requested that the City Manager be authorized to accept and expend funds received from the LETPP award in support of the San Diego RTAC Project and to execute all aspects of grant operation for a period of five years. In addition, it is requested that the Chief of Police be authorized to approve expenditures to establish and operate the San Diego RTAC on behalf of the City Manager.

Approved: P. Lamont Ewell
City Manager

Submitted By: William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police

