



Legislation Text

File #: R-16-125, Version: 2

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE
TWENTY SECOND COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. F/S R-16-125 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Brad Winter and Ken Sanchez

RESOLUTION

F/S Establishing A Property Crime Reduction Pilot Program Through The Use Of Newly Created Community Reporting Technician Positions And Designated PSA Positions And Providing An Appropriation To The Albuquerque Police Department (Winter, Sanchez)

WHEREAS, the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) is tasked to protect and serve a Metropolitan population base of close to one million people; and

WHEREAS recruitment and retention of officers is an increasing challenge for police agencies in the State and across the Nation; and

WHEREAS, for the past several years, APD has similarly experienced a decrease in the number of officers on its force; and

WHEREAS, while APD is aggressively marketing and recruiting new officers, selecting, vetting, and training new applicants is a lengthy process, making it difficult to quickly fill officer positions; and

WHEREAS, the current APD staffing shortage has hampered APD's community policing efforts and has resulted in increased response times to Priority Three property crimes (home burglary, auto theft, home larceny crimes, and vandalism/property damage) calls for service where no suspect is reported on scene; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Albuquerque deserve a timely and high quality response to reports of crime; and

WHEREAS, a solution to address the response times is for the City to establish

Community Reporting Technician Positions whose duties would include responding to Priority Three property crime calls through collection of forensic evidence, including latent print evidence, photographing of crime scenes, interviewing witnesses, taking reports, and testifying in court; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2014 APD implemented the Police Service Aide (PSA) program to boost officer recruiting and provide general assistance and report taking for certain non-critical calls, including auto and residential burglaries; thereby allowing sworn officers to respond to the more critical calls for service; and

WHEREAS, as of January 18, 2017 there are 21 filled PSA positions and 17 PSAs either in the Academy or on the job training (OJT); and

WHEREAS, APD is budgeted for 25 PSA positions but authorized to fill an additional 35 through vacancy savings; and

WHEREAS, since inception of the program, 27 PSAs have been successfully recruited as APD sworn officers, and another 2 are currently APD Academy Cadets; and

WHEREAS, the filling of 10 PSA positions will enhance APD's efforts to recruit additional sworn officers through the PSA program; and

WHEREAS, the use of Community Reporting Technicians and additional PSAs to respond to Priority Three property crime calls will free up APD officers to respond to Priority One emergency and violent crime calls; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the cumulative effect of the Property Crime Reduction Program would be decreased response times overall for both Priority One and Priority Three calls and improvement to service delivery to the community.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:

Section 1. That the Administration is directed to establish a Property Crime Reduction Pilot Program staffed with up to twenty-five (25) Community Reporting Technicians and (10) PSAs that will focus on responding to Priority Three property crime calls through collection of forensic evidence, including latent print evidence, photographing of crime scenes, interviewing witnesses, taking reports, and testifying in court. Implementation of the program will begin at the Northeast, Southeast and Southwest Area Commands.

Section 2. That the following amounts are hereby appropriated and/or de-appropriated in the following programs for Fiscal Year 2017 in order to fund this pilot program for the

last quarter of the year:

Police Department

Neighborhood Policing **\$300,000**

Municipal Development Department

Design Recovered Storm Drain **(\$200,000)**

Police Department

Transfer to Capital Acquisition Fund 305 **(\$100,000)**

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