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SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

504



FROM: PROBATION DEPARTMENT

SUBMITTAL DATE: January 27, 2003

SUBJECT: Approval of Computer and Technology High-tech (CATCH) Task Force Pilot Project

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Approve the Multi-Agency High-Tech Response Task Force MOU and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the agreement.

BACKGROUND: The attached agreement implements a six-month pilot project to fund the Riverside County Probation Department's participation in the Riverside, San Diego, Imperial Counties Regional High Technology Theft Apprehension and Prosecution Program. This project is known locally as the "Cyber Crime Grant." The Department has been working with the grant project director, Mr. Mike Groch of the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, to add a deputy probation officer to the Riverside Task Force. Currently, the Riverside County unit is composed of a Sheriff's sergeant (task force supervisor), five deputy sheriffs, and a District Attorney investigator. The decision to add a deputy probation officer to the Riverside Task Force, on a pilot basis, is based on department research that revealed at least 35 active probationers currently under sentence for a variety of cyber crimes, mostly identity theft cases.

Cyber related crime, especially identity theft cases, is a growing public safety issue in need of the specialized supervision and investigative techniques that this grant program provides through the Riverside County Task Force. The probation officer will augment the team by: (1) identifying formal or conditional probation cases of high risk cyber crime offenders; (2) initiating "cyber searches" of

Continued....

MARIE WHITTINGTON, Chief Probation Officer

FINANCIAL DATA:

CURRENT YEAR COST: \$ 20,000

ANNUAL COST: \$ 10,000 (50% Federal; 50% General Fund)

NET COUNTY COST: \$ 0 (FY 02-03);
\$ 5,000 (FY 03-04)

IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET: Yes X No

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: For FY 2002/03 Yes No X

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Federal - 100% (up to 06/30/03); 50% General Fund for a 2-month period in FY 03/04

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Review the program during the budget process if the position will be extended beyond the 6-month commitment period.

APPROVE

Positions to be Deleted
per A-30

County Executive Officer Signature

- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Policy

Department Recommendation:

Per Executive Office:

Prev. Agn. ref.

Dist. All

AGENDA NO.

3.29

probationers and enforcing terms and conditions of probation; (3) providing tactical support in the field to the Task Force as an additional sworn officer, and (4) assisting in the coordination of information on cyber crime offenders with law enforcement, correctional, and prosecutorial agencies. During the six-month pilot period, the Task Force and the Department will measure the success of adding the probation officer to the team in terms of these four objectives to determine whether continued financial support by the Task Force and the County is warranted.

CATCH will fund 100% of the salary and benefit expense for the probation officer assigned to the Task Force during the pilot period of the project (January through June 2003). The Probation Department has committed and identified a probation officer for the team for a period of six months. We anticipate filling the position as soon we receive Board approval, or later this month. This may require us to incur two months of salary expense beyond the pilot period, or approximately \$5,000 in County costs. Probation will attempt to adjust the agreement with lead agency to extend the pilot period into 2003-04 to cover the delay in getting operational. At the very least the high-technology training in cyber crimes afforded our department through this agreement warrants the additional \$5,000 expenditure because of the long-term benefit to the County's criminal justice system.

Should this agreement extend into 2003-04, the Task Force has advised the Department that funding for the probation officer beyond June 30, 2003 may be limited to 50% and that the Probation Department must furnish and fund the cost of a vehicle for the officer. This would increase the annual cost of Probation's participation to about \$38,000 in net costs to the County. If the pilot project is successful, the Department will return to the Board during the Fourth Quarter to request funding for the County's share for next year. If the project is not successful, or if funding of the County's share is not feasible, the Department's participation will terminate.

The Department will support the project for the rest of FY 2002/03 by filling a previously authorized position funded from an expiring grant. Therefore, no budget adjustment is necessary for the current year. The position used for the grant will be deleted in accordance with Board Policy A-30 at the conclusion of the pilot project or the end of the extension period, as applicable.

This agreement has been approved as to form by the Office of County Counsel.