CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 29, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: David L. Snowden, Chief of Police

Subject: Application for Federal Grant from U.S. Department of Justice

Attachments: None

INTRODUCTION

In 2007, the City developed the Unified Network of Interoperable Technology Enhancements (UNITE) homeland security proposal. This purpose of this proposal was to forge economic partnerships with state and federal agencies to create a state-of-the-art interoperable system and obtain funding for the City's homeland security needs. The City has received an $893,000 congressional earmark to further the implementation of the UNITE program.

DISCUSSION

Protecting the nation is a shared burden in which all public safety partners have a significant stake and role. To that end, the City of Beverly Hills has assigned the highest level of priority in advance of the need. The City proactively assessed the adequacy of existing security measures and developed solutions to bridge the gaps in interoperable interagency communication and information transfer. The result of this assessment was the creation of the Unified Network of Interoperable Technology Enhancements (UNITE) program.

UNITE is a prevention-based program that focuses on the need to link intelligence, communication and information, so as to identify those activities that are pre-cursors or indicators of an emerging threat. The timely transferability of information aids and augments prevention efforts, strategic planning, risk analysis, protection, deterrence, response, and disaster recovery.

The proposal and funding plan for the UNITE program will serve as an easily replicated national model for local, state and federal agencies to develop a highly effective, anti-terrorism resource that crosses multiple disciplines, collaborates with allied agencies and enhances inter-agency coordination and communication. While funding of $893,000 has been earmarked with the U.S. Department of Justice, the City will continue to pursue additional funding and partnership opportunities at the state and federal level.

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FISCAL IMPACT

An appropriation of $893,000 is requested to further fund the UNITE program. The City will be reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Justice for authorized expenditures throughout the grant period.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council move to authorize and direct the City Manager to submit a formal application to the U.S. Department of Justice as part of the $893,000 congressional earmark to enhance the City's UNITE program and allow staff to drawn down grant funds as purchases are made.

David L. Snowden, Chief of Police
Approved By