

City of Piedmont
Council Agenda Report

DATE: December 19, 2007

FROM: Lisa Ravazza – Police Chief

SUBJECT: **CITIZENS OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (COPS)**

RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, accept the (2007/08) \$100,000 Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) funding and appropriate to the following accounts:

- \$20,000 to the police overtime account
- \$80,000 to the equipment replacement fund
- Additionally, appropriate \$47,546 which was budgeted, but not spent, in FY 06/07 to the police overtime account.

BACKGROUND:

Piedmont Police Department has again received supplemental funding from the State of California for “front line” law enforcement purposes. In previous years COPS’ funds have been used to purchase antennas and upgrade radio system for EOC and alternate site; fund programs and training on auto accident reporting; replace police radar equipment; replace servers which control operation of police computer network; and fund special patrol overtime.

POLICE CHIEF’S COMMENTS:

I recommend that \$20,000 (20%) of the COPS funds be appropriated to the police department overtime account. I also request that unused revenue from the prior year COPS Grant fund, in the amount of \$47,546.86, also be placed into the police department overtime account. These funds may be utilized to defray the costs of such services as community policing, awareness programs and special patrols, designed to assist in keeping the crime rate low in the Piedmont community.

Although these funds are placed into the police department general overtime account, they are specifically managed and audited to ensure their proper usage; i.e., for community awareness programs, to schedule additional patrol addressing specific reporting districts experiencing a particular problem or an increase in crime. These funds are not utilized to supplement annual budget items such as overtime created by routine personnel shortages.

The remaining \$80,000 (80%) of the COPS’ funds should be appropriated to the equipment replacement fund. The funds will be utilized to:

- Upgrade the radio and communication network system in police dispatch.
- Update audio and visual recording devices for investigations and booking purposes.
- Upgrade and replace camera and video equipment.
- Improve and update the departmental armory to increase the security, safety and distribution of firearm equipment to officers.