



County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

June 19, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE SHERIFF TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HIGH TECH TASK FORCE
IDENTITY THEFT DETAIL
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Sheriff, as an agent for the County, to accept a Southern California High Tech Task Force Identity Theft Detail grant (SCHTTFITD) from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) for the Fiscal Year 2007-08, in the total amount of \$561,903.
2. Authorize the Sheriff or his designee, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to serve as Project Director of the program, to sign and execute said grant award, and to perform all further tasks necessary for completion of the project, including execution of amendments, extensions, contracts, grant renewals, and other award documents.
3. Instruct the Chair of the Board to provide a wet signature on the Certification of Assurance of Compliance (Attachment I).

PURPOSE /JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This letter requests authorization, as required by the OES, in the form of the Certification of Assurance of Compliance, which incorporates "Proof of Authority from City Council/Governing Board" in place of a resolution, to accept grant funds for the

A Tradition of Service

SCHTTFITD for the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008.

The OES selected the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) to be the lead agency for the SCHTTFITD, with an award of \$561,903 and a required 25 percent match of \$140,476, which will be supplied as in-kind funding, for a total program cost of \$702,379.

Senate Bill 438 and Penal Code Section 13848 establish a program of financial and technical assistance in the OES which has been designated the High Technology Theft and Apprehension Program (HTTAP). The OES awarded a HTTAP grant to Los Angeles, Ventura, and Orange Counties, also known as the Southern California High Tech Task Force, through the Department, who was designated by your Board as the project director. As an additional program under the High Tech Task Force grant, the Identity Theft Detail was created and funded.

The SCHTTFITD will provide the highest quality law enforcement investigative and support services in the identity theft field. The detail will support local law enforcement agencies with training and expertise to assist in investigations and the prosecution of identity theft crimes. The detail will support the people of Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties through investigation and prosecution efforts.

Southern California has been overwhelmed with incidents of identity theft. The Department received 33,566 cases over a 90 month period. In July 1999, the Department developed the first task force in the nation to combat identity theft crimes. The detail includes participants from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Social Security Administration, as well as the California Department of Motor Vehicles, the Glendale Police Department, the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. The detail is comprised of 29 investigators, two professional staff, three sergeants, and one lieutenant, who serve the more than ten million residents of Los Angeles County. In the last 14 months, the detail has taken a vigorous pro-active approach to fight identity theft. The detail served 248 search warrants, arrested 213 violators, filed 124 criminal complaints alleging identity theft, and identified 13,804 victims. Nearly \$3.9 million in fraudulently obtained property was recovered. Identity theft crimes are on the rise and continue to be of major concern to our citizens.

The Department will provide grant funded and in-kind support staff for the SCHTTFITD. All participating agencies will donate at least 40-hours per month to assist in Task Force and Identity Theft investigations.

The OES notified the Department of the earmarked allocation on March 28, 2007. The application was submitted on May 11, 2007. Upon signature of the Certification of Assurance, the grant award documents will be executed by the State.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The program conforms to the Los Angeles County Strategic Plan Goal 1, Service Excellence, by providing committed employees to support the High Technology Crime Task Force and Identity Theft Detail in the community. The Task Force will reduce the number of High Tech Crimes and Identity Theft Crimes, and improve the quality of life for citizens in Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties. The program also supports Strategic Plan Goal 5, by providing for the well-being of families.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

This grant award is for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008. The program total of \$702,379 is for administrative and investigative positions, operating expenses, and equipment for the detail. A 25 percent in-kind match of \$140,476 is required to receive grant funding. The Department is contributing this match by donating the benefits portion of the funded sergeant and sheriff's station clerk II position, as well as a portion of the salary and benefits of one bonus II investigator. Agencies receiving salary funding are Ventura County Sheriff's Department (\$92,088) and Los Angeles County District Attorney (\$45,528). Approximately 62 percent of the District Attorney's salary expense will be offset by the grant funding, the remaining 38 percent will be absorbed by the District Attorney.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Due to the passage of Senate Bill 438, Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties' law enforcement and prosecution agencies are involved with local and State law enforcement agencies in the California High Technology Crime Apprehension and Prosecution Program. This program has become a State-wide effort to address the growing rate of high technology crime that is either undetected, unenforced, or unreported to law enforcement. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2005 Computer Crime Survey, high technology crimes in the United States cost businesses \$67 billion each year. The participating agencies of Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties are one of the State's Regional Task Forces under this program. The Identity Theft Detail is a major component of the Task Force. Other regional Task Forces are currently operational in the Sacramento Valley area, Santa Clara, Napa, and San Diego Counties.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
June 19, 2007
Page 4

This Board letter has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

From 1999 to 2001, when the Identity Theft Detail was formed, the incidents of identity theft crimes rose in Los Angeles County 100 percent in each of the three years. As the Identity Theft Detail has grown and been supported by State funding, the incidents of identity theft from 2001 to 2004 have risen only about eight percent and from 2004 to 2005, three percent. This is a clear indication of how aggressive enforcement, public education, and legislative changes have impacted this crime.

Currently, identity theft crimes are evolving and becoming more "high tech." If law enforcement is unable to keep pace with new trends and technological developments, identity theft crimes will see another drastic rise. State support of the efforts already made by Los Angeles County is the only way the Identity Theft Detail will be able to continue its tenacious attack on these criminals. Although the impact to the County prosecution and public defender is minimal, the benefit to public safety of the County far outweighs any additional impact to the County justice departments. The citizens of Los Angeles County are entitled to this level of service and personal security.

CONCLUSION

Upon the Board's action, the Department's Grants Unit requests that your Board please provide four individually certified copies of the Board approved letter and two Certifications of Assurance, containing original signatures.

The Department's contact for the requested Board action is Marcelle Murr, Grants Analyst, at (323).526-5212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leroy D. Baca".

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

IV. Lobbying – (Recipient Handbook Section 2154)

OES grant funds, grant property, or grant funded positions shall not be used for any lobbying activities, including, but not limited to, being paid by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making of any federal grant, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal grant or cooperative agreement.

V. Debarment and Suspension – (Recipient Handbook Section 2155)

(This applies to federally funded grants only.)

OES-funded projects must certify that it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of federal benefits by a state or federal court, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department of agency.

VI. Proof of Authority from City Council/Governing Board

The above-named organization (applicant) accepts responsibility for and will comply with the requirement to obtain written authorization from the city council/governing board in support of this program. The applicant agrees to provide all matching funds required for said project (including any amendment thereof) under the Program and the funding terms and conditions of OES, and that any cash match will be appropriated as required. It is agreed that any liability arising out of the performance of this Grant Award Agreement, including civil court actions for damages, shall be the responsibility of the grant recipient and the authorizing agency. The State of California and OES disclaim responsibility of any such liability. Furthermore, it is also agreed that grant funds received from OES shall not be used to supplant expenditures controlled by the city council/governing board.

The applicant is required to obtain written authorization from the city council/governing board that the official executing this agreement is, in fact, authorized to do so. The applicant is also required to maintain said written authorization on file and readily available upon demand.

All appropriate documentation must be maintained on file by the project and available for OES or public scrutiny upon request. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in suspension of payments under the grant or termination of the grant or both and the Recipient may be ineligible for award of any future grants if the OES determines that any of the following has occurred: (1) the Recipient has made false certification, or (2) violates the certification by failing to carry out the requirements as noted above.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, am the same individual authorized to sign the Grant Award Agreement [Section 12 on Grant Award Face Sheet], and hereby swear that I am duly authorized legally to bind the contractor or grant recipient to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

Authorized Official's Signature: Leroy Baca

Authorized Official's Typed Name: Leroy D. Baca

Authorized Official's Title: Sheriff

Date Executed: 5-10-07

Federal Employer ID Number: 95-6000927

Executed in the City/County of: Los Angeles

AUTHORIZED BY: *(not applicable to State agencies)*

- City/County Financial Officer or
- City/County Manager or
- Governing Board Chair



Signature: Zev Yaroslavsky

Typed Name: Zev Yaroslavsky

Title: Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM
RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR, County Counsel

BY [Signature]
Deputy

Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office
Grant Management Statement for Grants Exceeding \$100,000

Department: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Grant Project Title and Description:

Southern California High Tech Task Force - Identity Theft Detail

The Detail will provide the highest quality of law enforcement investigative and support services in the identity theft field. The Detail supports local law enforcement agencies with training, equipment, and expertise for the investigation and prosecution of identity theft crimes.

Funding Agency California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES)	Program (Fed. Grant # /State Bill or Code #) HD07070190	Grant Acceptance Deadline August 2007
--	---	---

Total Amount of Grant Funding: \$561,903	County Match Requirements: \$140,476
Grant Period: 7/1/07 - 6/30/08	Begin Date: 7/1/07 End Date: 6/30/08
Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:	Full Time <u> 2 </u> Part Time <u> 0 </u>

Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program? Yes No

Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items? Yes No

Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires? Yes No

If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:

a). Absorb the program cost without reducing other services Yes No

b). Identify other revenue sources Yes No

(Describe) _____

c). Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant. Yes No

Impact of additional personnel on existing space: No impact. This is the eighth year for the program.

Other requirements not mentioned above: None.

Department Head Signature _____

V. Baca

Date 6/6/07