



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of May 22, 2010**

DATE: April 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Authorize the County Manager or their designee to accept donations of cash and materials on behalf of the County to be utilized toward Police Department activities relating to criminal investigations and crime prevention.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the County Manager or their designee to accept donations of cash and materials on behalf of the County to be utilized toward Police Department activities relating to criminal investigations and crime prevention.

ISSUE: County Board approval is needed to authorize the County Manager to accept donations of cash and materials to be used by the Police Department for activities related to criminal investigations and crime prevention. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Department routinely receives inquiries from private companies and individual citizens interested in donating funds and/or properties such as computers and cell-phones that can be used to assist and further criminal investigations and various crime prevention programs. Establishment of a Trust and Agency account (799.31101) for the Police Department would allow the Department to accept such offers of donations that are suitable and limited for use in its efforts to deter, detect, and prosecute crimes. Donations benefit the Police Department as well as the donor in that the Department gets needed funding and equipment at no cost and the donor may realize a tax benefit.

BACKGROUND: This program would operate similar to the highly successful Bait Vehicle Program, which allows insurance companies and private citizens to donate money and/or vehicles to assist in combating auto theft. These donations have allowed the Police Department to expand and improve its Bait Vehicle Program, which continues to successfully prosecute offenders.

DISCUSSION: The Police Department routinely receives donation offers from private companies and citizens. In order to properly account for these donations that are being offered to the County for specific purposes, a trust and agency account needs to be approved and established to account for these dedicated funds.

County Manager: MB / (signature)

County Attorney: SM

Staff: M. Douglas Scott, Chief of Police

30.

Currently, a private company has offered to donate three forensic computers valued at \$18,000 to the Department's Computer Forensic Unit. These computers have not been used and are considered excess inventory that would normally be disposed of through other channels. However, the donor company is affiliated with the High Tech Crime Investigator Association (HTCIA), which is an association that partners with law enforcement agencies and private sector groups to encourage and promote the exchange of information, experience, ideas and knowledge regarding methods, processes, and techniques relating to investigations involving advanced technologies. The Police Department has successfully worked and shared information with HTCIA members on several occasions.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Police Department will assess whether any items received would require expenditures, such as maintenance and repair. If items are accepted which provide value to the County and the Crime Deterrent Program but there would be an expense to the Department, the Police Department will first pay these costs from cash contributions in the Trust and Agency account. If there are no donated funds available, the Police Department, following consultation with the Department of Management and Finance, may reallocate existing Police budget resources within their General Fund budget.