



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of October 20, 2012**

DATE: September 14, 2012

SUBJECT: Acceptance and appropriation of a Fiscal Year 2012 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Sub-grant - License Plate Recognition Project

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the County Manager or her designee to accept \$1,200,000 in non-competitive grant funds from the Government of the District of Columbia, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.
2. Appropriate \$1,200,000 in grant fund revenue from the District of Columbia, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (794.374900.31202) to the Police Department (794.31202) for administering the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Urban Areas Security Initiative sub-grant including personnel, consultants, equipment and supply expenses.
3. Authorize a 1.0 FTE temporary grant funded position in the Police Department to provide needed staffing to administer the grant program.

ISSUES: The Police Department will provide project management and continued implementation of the National Capital Region's (NCR) License Plate Recognition Project. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: This UASI subgrant of \$1,200,000 is related to a proposal submitted to the NCR Homeland Security Program for the continued implementation of the National Capital Region's License Plate Recognition Project and is part of a comprehensive plan to sustain an integrated effort to prevent and protect against terrorist incidents. The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) will continue to function as the project manager, coordinating all license plate recognition (LPR) related purchases and distributing equipment to law enforcement agencies within the NCRⁱ. The sub-grant period of performance is September 1, 2012 through May 31, 2014.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has made a significant investment in homeland security in the NCR through the distribution of UASI funds. The

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

[Signature]

MNC

20.

Staff: Lt. Rob Deso, Police Department

FY 2012 UASI sub-grant is made available through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and was awarded to the Police Department by the NCR Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers. These funds address the unique planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and assists in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. As the State Administrative Agent for the NCR, the District of Columbia provides management of the sub-grant funds.

DISCUSSION: The National Capital Region (NCR) License Plate Recognition (LPR) Program is an in-depth, intelligence-driven counter terrorism program designed to improve the security of the NCR by providing law enforcement agencies within the NCR an additional tool to enhance homeland security and prevent acts of terrorism aimed at disrupting security in the region.

The ACPD will continue to serve as the project manager for sub-recipients of this initiative. As project manager, the ACPD will review project requirements, determine vendors, arrange product demonstrations, recommend selection, request bids, manage the budget, document purchases, arrange delivery, and maintain records for payment of vendors and other financial disbursements related to this sub-grant. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ACPD and those agencies assigned equipment will specify that maintenance will be the responsibility of the agency assigned the equipment and will further state that all equipment is to be properly maintained or returned to project manager who will reassign the equipment if cost effective.

License plate readers are currently deployed at fixed sites and as mobile units, and automatically "read" license plate registration numbers comparing them to a predefined watch list – obtained from the FBI's Terrorism Watch List, NCIC/VCIN stolen vehicle and stolen license plate reports, and other official intelligence resources. LPR's use image-processing technology to identify vehicles via license plates and when a match is found a signal is activated notifying a police officer of the detected vehicle and at the same time providing information about the vehicle. At this point, a vehicle can be stopped or its presence at a particular location stored in a computer database allowing law enforcement to generate additional investigative leads.

The continuation of this project will expand the use of LPR technology within the NCR and require participating agencies to implement LPR technology into their everyday counter-terrorism enforcement efforts. LPR technology being utilized by law enforcement agencies within the NCR currently operate independently of each other, but as the program advances the NCR will realize a real-time database capable of linking the entire region.

FISCAL IMPACT: The NCR Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers have awarded \$1,200,000 in funding for this project. Grant funds will be utilized for the purchase and installation of equipment related to regional database connectivity between agencies, additional strategic LPR fixed sight locations, and training related to acquiring LPR technology. This grant covers all of the costs associated with this project and there is no required match. Additionally, a 1.0 FTE limited term position for a police lieutenant/project director with benefits, for the two-year period of performance is projected at \$81,618.36 minimum to \$134,927.41 maximum, which along with other associated program expenses will be fully grant funded and is not

expected to exceed \$269,854.82 over the life of the grant. The grant dollars will be expended through fund 794, Urban Area Security Initiative. All funds awarded pursuant to this sub-grant must be expended within (30) days of the end of the grant period. The sub-grant period of performance for this grant is September 1, 2012 – May 31, 2014. The anticipated lifespan of the equipment is 3-8 years depending on the amount of use and type of storage facility. Each individual agency is solely responsible for the care and maintenance of all equipment they receive under this UASI grant after the period of performance is over.

¹The NCR encompasses the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland and Virginia, including the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William in Virginia and the counties of Montgomery and Prince George's in Maryland, which include the municipalities of Bowie, College Park, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Rockville, and Takoma Park.