



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of June 17, 2008**

DATE: May 23, 2008

SUBJECT: FY 2007 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Sub-grant

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the County Manager to accept \$500,000 in non-competitive grant funds from the Government of the District of Columbia, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.

ISSUES: The National Capitol Region (NCR) Senior Policy Group awarded the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) a FY 2007 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) sub-grant. There are no issues that have been identified in association with this funding.

SUMMARY: The Police Department's has been awarded \$500,000 in UASI funds based on a proposal submitted to the NCR Homeland Security Program that outlines a plan to provide Northern Virginia area law enforcement agencies, which are part of the NCR, with streamlined access to mobile counter terrorism surveillance trailers. The ACPD will function as the local administrative agency responsible for the purchase and distribution of equipment to sub-recipients.

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. These funds address the unique planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density Urban Areas, and assists them in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

The NCR encompasses the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland and Virginia. In 2002 the National Capital Region (NCR) established a UASI with participating Virginia localities including the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park.

The FY 2007 UASI sub-grant made available through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and awarded to the ACPD by the NCR Senior Policy Group and Chief

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: M. Douglas Scott, Chief of Police x4040

Administrative Officers will fund the purchase of all equipment. As the State Administrative Agent for the metro area, the District of Columbia provides management of the sub-grant funds.

DISCUSSION: The Northern Virginia area, which is part of the National Capitol Region (NCR), is a prime target for foreign and domestic terrorism. Northern Virginia is a national center for politics, media and culture making it an ideal target for terrorist around the world. An attack in the Northern Virginia area would have the potential to cause mass casualties, a negative economic impact, and are of political and symbolic significance as well because of its proximity to the United States Capitol, the White House, and other national monuments. In the Northern Virginia area, there are various military installations, two major airports, the Metrorail system, numerous federal agencies, and the homes of many high level government officials. Additionally, the area is host to numerous large events, such as the Marine Corps Marathon, and could potentially be targeted by terrorists.

The purchase of mobile surveillance platforms provides law enforcement agencies with another tool in their efforts to enhance homeland security. The goal of the Mobile Surveillance Trailer Program is to provide agencies with the capability of observing vehicles and people in order to prevent, deter, and respond to acts of terrorism aimed at disrupting the security of the region. Only a few law enforcement agencies within the National Capitol Region have mobile surveillance trailers in use as terrorism prevention tools. For those that do, they utilize their trailers in a number of roles the most prominent of which is as a deterrent at special events.

The Mobile Surveillance Trailer Program is a counterterrorism tool designed to improve the security in the Northern Virginia Region. Participating agencies must incorporate the use of the mobile surveillance trailers into their counter-terrorism enforcement efforts. The trailers are to be distributed to local law enforcement agencies located throughout Northern Virginia; however, they will remain a regional resource to be shared and made available to other Northern Virginia jurisdictions. The pooling of equipment in the region will allow additional resources to be available to a jurisdiction during a large special event or during an emergency and could be rapidly relocated to the requesting agency's location.

The ACPD will 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 each agency assigned the equipment will specify that maintenance will be the responsibility of the agency that the equipment is assigned to 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. The anticipated lifespan of the equipment is estimated to be 3-8 years depending on the amount of use and type of storage facility. The sub-grant period of performance is July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT: The NCR Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers have awarded \$500,000 in funding for this project. Grant funds are for 100% of the purchase costs of

Subject: FY07 UASI sub-grant – NCR Senior Policy Group & Chief Administrative Officers

the mobile surveillance trailers and there is no required match. The grant dollars will be expended through fund 794, Urban Area Security Initiative; no appropriation is required.

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