



CITY OF DUNWOODY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Billy Grogan, Chief of Police
CC: Warren Hutmacher, City Manager
Date: July 12, 2010
Item: **Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) Grant**

Background:

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) periodically funds highway safety grants for local agencies. These grants primarily fund personnel and equipment for DUI and traffic enforcement. The current grant being offered is a three year grant. The grant funds the creation of a HEAT traffic enforcement unit. It will pay for 100% of two officer positions and equipment up to \$250,000 the first year. The local municipality is required to pay for at least one additional position and equipment. The grant will pay 75% of salaries and benefits for the two officers positions the second year and 50% of the salaries and benefits of the two grant positions the third year. The GOHS, as funds allow, can appropriate additional funds after the expiration of the grant. The GOHS strongly encourages the continued funding of these grant positions after the grant expires.

Discussion:

The number one complaint the police department receives from our citizens is traffic related. We receive complaints about cars speeding on the main thoroughfares, in the neighborhoods, and in the school zones. The complaints include cars running stop signs, red lights and other violations. Right now, these complaints are funneled to the shift and assigned to officers who are working in the particular area of the complaint. As time allows, because of call volume and other duties, the officer will try and work the traffic complaint. In many cases, we are not able to address the traffic complaint in a timely manner or as adequately as we would like. In reality, it is difficult for officers assigned to a shift to make a significant impact on driver behavior. A dedicated traffic enforcement unit would be a great asset to the department and to the community. This unit would handle traffic complaints, conduct targeted enforcement, work all fatality accidents, handle special events and



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work other specialized details as needed. This unit would also work hand in hand with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety on important statewide traffic initiatives.

One of the FY2011 budget requests made by the police department, which has not been forwarded to the City Council yet, is for a dedicated traffic unit of three officers supervised by one Sergeant. The Dunwoody Police Department has applied for the GOHS grant. The GOHS grants will be awarded in August. In FY2011, the GOHS grant will cover the salary and equipment, up to \$250,000 for two new officers. The City of Dunwoody would be required by the grant to fund one additional officer position.

Staff Recommendation:

This information is being provided to City Council for informational purposes. If the Dunwoody Police Department is awarded the Governor's Office of Highway Safety grant in August, additional documentation will be prepared and forwarded so Council can make a decision to either accept or not accept the grant at that time.