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Item 7

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: November 24th, 2026
General Plan Element: ***Neighborhoods***
General Plan Goal: ***Enhance and Protect Neighborhoods***

ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 13828 authorizing:

1. Acceptance, if awarded, from the Department of Justice a grant in the amount of up to $150,000 for DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog reduction; and

2. The City Manager or designee to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents and other necessary or desirable instruments in connection with the acceptance of the Department of Justice DNA Backlog grant; and

3. A budget transfer of up to $150,000 from the adopted Fiscal Year 2026/27 Grant Contingency Budget to a newly created cost center to record the related grant activity.

BACKGROUND

The City of Scottsdale/Scottsdale Police Department Crime Laboratory is tasked with analyzing biological evidence collected by officers and detectives for crimes occurring within the City of Scottsdale and the Salt River Indian Community. The Forensic Biology Unit handles the screening of physical evidence and performs DNA analysis on biological samples.

DNA evidence is routinely gathered and analyzed in cases such as sexual assault, homicide, and armed robbery—crimes often categorized as crimes against persons. While the laboratory prioritizes these cases, DNA evidence from property crimes is also collected by officers and detectives and submitted for analysis. Furthermore, advances in DNA technology have improved the lab's ability to process samples with minimal DNA, leading to an increase in the number of evidentiary items submitted per case.

Backlogged DNA cases at the end of each year are as follows:

- 2022: 336 cases
- 2023: 223 cases
- 2024: 147 cases
- 2025: 109 cases

The Scottsdale Police Department has previously received and utilized a Department of Justice DNA Capacity and Backlog Reduction Grant (res. 13553).

Action Taken _____

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ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT

The 2026 formula grant award will continue to address the backlog in DNA processing, and grant funds will be used to continue to fund a full-time DNA Forensic Scientist position and a part-time Evidence Screening Forensic Scientist position.

RESOURCE IMPACTS

Available funding

The Department of Justice Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program is a formula-based grant. It is anticipated that the department will apply for and receive the formula grant each year. In the event funding is no longer available, the department will look for alternative funding, including reallocating the funding from a vacant Scientist position.

This action requests a budget transfer of up to $150,000 from the adopted FY 2026/27 Grant Contingency Budget to provide budget appropriation for the purpose of the grant. There is sufficient appropriation in the Grant Contingency to support this action.

Staffing, Workload Impact

Approval of the grant will continue to fund a full-time DNA examiner position and a part-time forensic scientist that assist in reducing the backlog of DNA cases waiting to be analyzed and provide a balance of workload for the current Scientists.

Future Budget Impacts

There are no additional cost recovery opportunities nor is there a match requirement associated with the grant.

OPTIONS & STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommended Approach
Adopt Resolution No. 13828 authorizing:

1. Acceptance, if awarded, from the Department of Justice a grant in the amount of up to $150,000 for DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog reduction; and

2. The City Manager or designee to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents and other necessary or desirable instruments in connection with the acceptance of the Department of Justice DNA Backlog grant; and

3. A budget transfer of up to $150,000 from the adopted Fiscal Year 2026/27 Grant Contingency Budget to a newly created cost center to record the related grant activity.

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT(S)

Police Department

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STAFF CONTACT(S)

Joseph LeDuc, Chief of Police, jleduc@scottsdaleaz.gov

APPROVED BY

Signed by:
14EBF2CEF2454BE...

Joseph LeDuc, Chief of Police — 11/9/2026 Date

(480) 312-1900, jleduc@scottsdaleaz.gov

Signed by:
Ana Lia Johnson for Scott Selin
0827730CADBA410...

Scott Selin, Budget Department Director — 11/9/2026 Date
(For Financial Policies Compliance and Budget Appropriation)
(480) 312-7893, SSelin@scottsdaleaz.gov

Signed by:
Greg Caton
044928DD3EAB4C9...

Greg Caton, City Manager — 11/9/2026 Date

(480) 312-7757, GCaton@scottsdaleaz.gov

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 13828

RESOLUTION NO. 13828

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A DNA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT AND BACKLOG REDUCTION GRANT, IF AWARDED, FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR UP TO $150,000.

WHEREAS, the City has applied for a DNA capacity enhancement and backlog reduction grant in the amount of up to $150,000 from the Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Contingency Budget in the Grant Fund allows the City the budget authority to accept grants throughout the fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona, as follows

Section1. Authorize acceptance, if awarded, from the Department of Justice a grant in the amount of up to $150,000 for DNA capacity enhancement and Backlog reduction.

Section 2. Authorize the City Manager or designee to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents and other necessary or desirable instruments in connection with the acceptance of the Department of Justice DNA Backlog Grant.

Section 3. Authorize a budget transfer of up to $150,000 from the adopted Fiscal Year 2026/27 Grant Contingency Budget to a newly created cost center to record the related grant activity.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Scottsdale this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an
Arizona municipal corporation

ATTEST:

_____
Ben Lane, City Clerk

_____
Lisa Borowsky, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Luis E. Santaella, City Attorney
By: James Heard, Deputy City Attorney

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ATTACHMENT 1