

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Meeting Date: **July 11, 2023**
 General Plan Element: **Neighborhoods**
 General Plan Goal: **Enhance and Protect Neighborhoods**

ACTION

Authorize Resolution Number 12891 authorizing:

1. An FY 2023/24 Public Safety - Police budget transfer of up to \$163,102 to replace RICO funding with Federal Grant funding within capital improvement project BH05 DNA Evidence Storage Facility.

BACKGROUND

The Scottsdale Police Department Crime Laboratory (Department) is responsible for the analysis of evidentiary material associated with criminal activity within the City of Scottsdale and the Salt River Indian Community for investigative purposes. The DNA Unit oversees screening of physical evidentiary items and the storage of DNA biological evidence.

DNA evidence is routinely collected and analyzed in crimes against persons, such as sexual assault, homicide and armed robbery. However, although crimes against person cases are the laboratory's priority for analyzing, officers and detectives also collect DNA evidence from property crimes and submit the evidence to the crime lab for analysis.

While the number of DNA cases submitted to the lab continues to increase, so does the number of backlogged DNA cases. A DNA case is considered "backlogged" if analysis does not begin within 30 days. As the amount of backlogged DNA evidence continues to grow, it is necessary to maintain proper storage of the critical evidence by purchasing another DNA freezer.

The Scottsdale Police Department's Property and Evidence warehouse freezers are at or near capacity. The new freezer will be used to store evidence items awaiting DNA analysis, such as untested sexual assault kits and evidence from homicides and other violent crimes. This will increase the laboratory's capacity to store additional items which have the potential to be tested for DNA and searched through the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database.

The Department applied for and received Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 DNA Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction formula grant funds from the Department of Justice to support an additional DNA scientist. In FY 2022/23, a grant adjustment to fund an additional DNA storage freezer was applied for and approved by the grantor to maintain storage of DNA evidence. This project is currently budgeted in CIP project BH05 – DNA Evidence Storage Facility using Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) funding. The budget transfer will reduce RICO budget authority and transfer it to Grant Funding.

Action Taken Approved on Consent

Impact analysis

The ability to properly store and maintain forensic items, which have the potential to be tested for DNA and searched through the CODIS database, will result in the ability to adjudicate more court cases brought to the police department related to homicide, sexual assault, and other violent crimes that occur within the City of Scottsdale. Additionally, there is a full-time scientist currently budgeted in the 2022 DNA Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction (grant year after the proposed amended grant referenced here).

Financial Impact

With this budget transfer, the Police Department will fund BH05 – DNA Evidence Storage Facility utilizing expiring grant funds instead of RICO funding. The grant is funded by FFY2021 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program formula grant from the Department of Justice. The net funding for project BH05 will remain at \$200,000, with balances by fund of \$10,236.60 in Court Enhancement Funds, \$36,898.00 in RICO, and \$163,102.00 in Grant Funds.

Resource Impacts

There will be no resource impacts beyond the purchase and installation of the DNA storage facility.

Staffing, Workload Impact

There is no staffing, or workload impact due to the construction of the space needed for the freezer is already completed. All that is required is the purchase and installation of the DNA freezer.

OPTIONS & STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommended Approach

Adopt Resolution No. 12891 authorizing:

1. An FY 2023/24 Public Safety - Police budget transfer of up to \$163,102 to replace RICO funding with Federal Grant funding within capital improvement project BH05 DNA Evidence Storage Facility.

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT(S)

Police Department.

STAFF CONTACT(S)

Jeff Walther, Chief of Police, jwalther@scottsdaleaz.gov

City Council Report | Authorize Budget Transfer From RICO Fund to Grant Fund, Resolution No. 12891

APPROVED BY



Jeff Walther, Chief of Police

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

6/26/23
Date



Judy Doyle, Budget Director

(For Financial Policies Compliance and Budget Appropriation)

(480) 312-2603, jdoyle@scottsdaleaz.gov

6.26.2023
Date



Dan Worth, Executive Director, Public Works

(480) 312-5555, DaWorth@scottsdaleaz.gov

6-26-23
Date

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. RESOLUTION NO. 12891**

RESOLUTION NO. 12891

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING AN FY 2023/24 PUBLIC SAFETY - POLICE BUDGET TRANSFER OF UP TO \$163,102 TO REPLACE RICO FUNDING WITH FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING WITHIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BH05 DNA EVIDENCE STORAGE FACILITY.

WHEREAS, the Scottsdale Police Department wishes to increase the storage capability of the police department crime laboratory due to the large number of DNA samples submitted for processing; and

WHEREAS, the Scottsdale Police Department wishes to ensure proper storage of forensic evidence related to crimes committed within the City of Scottsdale; and

WHEREAS, the Scottsdale Police Department has the FFY2021 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program formula grant in the amount of \$163,102 that can fund the capital improvement program BH05 DNA Evidence Storage Facility

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

1. Section 1. An FY 2023/24 Public Safety - Police budget transfer of up to \$163,102 to replace RICO funding with Federal Grant funding within capital improvement project BH05 DNA Evidence Storage Facility.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Scottsdale this ____ day of _____, 2023.

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an
Arizona municipal corporation

ATTEST:

Ben Lane, City Clerk

David D. Ortega, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sherry R. Scott, City Attorney

By: Luis E. Santaella, Deputy City Attorney