

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



Meeting Date: October 10th, 2023
 General Plan Element: **Neighborhoods**
 General Plan Goal: **Enhance and Protect Neighborhoods**

ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 12947 authorizing:

1. Acceptance of a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Justice for DNA Backlog reduction; and
2. The Police Chief or designee, with the concurrence of the City Attorney 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 \$250,000 budget transfer from the adopted Fiscal Year 2023/24 Future Grants Budget and/or 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 responsible for the analysis of biological evidence collected by officers and detectives for crimes committed within the City of Scottsdale and Salt River Indian Community. The Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Unit is charged with the screening of collected physical evidence as well as the DNA analysis of biological evidence.

DNA evidence is routinely collected and analyzed in crimes such as sexual assault, homicide, and armed robbery. These crimes are often referred to as crimes against persons. Although the laboratory prioritizes analyzing crimes against person cases, 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. At the end of calendar year 2022, the number of cases backlogged remains exceptionally high.

Backlogged DNA cases at the end of the year:

2020 – 176 cases
 2021 – 254 cases
 2022 – 336 cases

The department applied for and received the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 Department of Justice

Action Taken Approved on Consent

City Council Report | 2023 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program

DNA Capacity Enhancement Backlog Reduction formula grant to continue funding 2 DNA scientists that focus on the backlogged cases. The FFY2023 grant funds will also be used to purchase the necessary licenses and equipment to allow the scientists to process the cases.

ANALYSIS & ASSESSMENT

The 2023 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 examiner and a 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 that funding is no longer available, and alternative funding is not found, the two positions funded by this grant will be eliminated.

This action requests a budget transfer for \$250,000 from the adopted FY 2023/24 24 Future Grants Budget and/or Grant Contingency Budget to provide budget appropriation for the purpose of the grant.

Staffing, Workload Impact

Approval of the grant will reduce 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. 12947 authorizing:

1. Acceptance of a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Justice for DNA Backlog reduction; and
2. The Police Chief or designee, with the concurrence of the City Attorney 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 \$250,000 budget transfer from the adopted Fiscal Year 2023/24 Future Grants Budget and/or Grant Contingency Budget to a newly created cost center to record the related grant activity.

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT(S)

City Council Report | 2023 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program

Police Department

STAFF CONTACT(S)

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

APPROVED BY



Jeff Walther, Chief of Police

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

9/20/23

Date

Ana Lia Johnson

Ana Lía Johnson, Acting Budget Director
(For Financial Policies Compliance and Budget Appropriation)
(480) 312-7893, AnJohnson@scottsdaleaz.gov

9/21/23

Date

Jim Thompson

Jim Thompson, City Manager

(480) 312-2811, JThompson@scottsdaleaz.gov

9/20/23

Date

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 12947

RESOLUTION NO. 12947

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, MARICOPA COUNTY,
ARIZONA, ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FROM
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR DNA BACKLOG REDUCTION

WHEREAS, the Scottsdale Police Department wishes to reduce the number of DNA cases in backlog status due to the large number of DNA samples submitted for processing; and the City has been awarded Department of Justice grant funding in the amount of \$250,000 in support of this effort; and

WHEREAS, the Future Grants 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

Section 1. Authorize acceptance of a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Justice for DNA Backlog reduction; and

Section 2. Authorize the Police Chief or designee, in concurrence with the City Attorney 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

Section 3. Authorize a \$250,000 budget transfer from the adopted Fiscal Year 2023/24 Future Grants Budget and/or 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 _____, 2023.

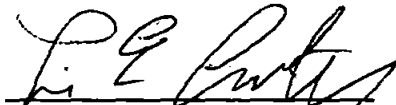
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE, an
Arizona municipal corporation

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