



DATE: March 6, 2023

MEMO TO: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair
Operations Committee

Gina Roberts, Chair
Finance Committee

FROM: Rebekah Snyder
Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: District staff intends to apply for a grant from the FY2023 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program offered through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a division of the US Department of Justice. If awarded, the grant will provide partial funding to cover the cost of equipment and initial implementation of body-worn cameras for officers in the Public Safety Department.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: The project budget has not been finalized. However, the Public Safety Department anticipates applying for a three-year grant to support a full-service contract that will fully equip all 43 full-time and part-time rangers as well as provide ongoing equipment maintenance, off-site video storage, and training. The amount of the grant request is limited to \$2,000 per camera; we anticipate requesting 45 cameras, for a total grant request of up to \$90,000. Matching funds equal to the final grant request are required and can be comprised of cash or in-kind labor.

BACKGROUND: The Illinois Law Enforcement Officer Body-Worn Camera Act was enacted in 2016 and requires all officers to wear on-duty body cameras by January 1, 2025. District staff are preparing to meet this mandate, with a goal of implementing the program by summer 2024. The Public Safety Department is planning to request funding in the 2024 District Budget.

This grant program is designed specifically to support implementation of new body-worn camera programs. One program requirement is that the requesting agency does not currently have identified funding in their budget. The grant application deadline is April 4, with award notification expected in October.

The District's Fundraising Authorization Policy was approved in 2008 and amended in 2017 and 2021. If a project – such as this one – is not included in the District's Budget or Capital Improvement Plan, the amended policy states: "the Board of Commissioners, upon recommendation by the appropriate Standing Committee(s), if applicable, may evaluate the scope of a proposed project and approve the request for or acceptance of funds for any project."

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Public Safety, Director of Finance, Corporate Counsel.