




AGENDA COORDINATION FORM

Bexar County Commissioners Court

Type of Agenda Item (Choose one): Ceremonial <input type="checkbox"/> Special Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Time Certain <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sponsoring Office/Department: <u>District Attorney's Office</u>		Recipient Agency / Individual Name: _____		
Contact: <u>Jamissa Jarmon</u>	Phone Number: <u>2103352772</u>	Court Date Requested: <u>November 7, 2023</u>		
Presenter: <u>Joe D. Gonzales</u>	Phone Number: <u>2103352342</u>	Deadline for Action: <u>November 7, 2023</u>		
Audio / Visual Presentation: Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint? Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> ADA Assistance Required (type): <u>N/A</u>				
Official/Department Head Signature: 		Small, Minority, Women-owned Business Enterprise (SMWBE): Impact: Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

CAPTION:

Presentation, discussion, and appropriate action regarding a proposal related to public safety meetings between the City of San Antonio and Bexar County officials authorizing the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney to utilize unused funds in the amount of \$295,428.00 resulting from vacant positions within the Office of the District Attorney to fund a High Risk Intake Team to aid in the identification of high risk criminal cases and assist in the reduction of Intake Division backlog.

ESTIMATED PRESENTATION TIME: 15 minutes

BACKGROUND:

The safety and security of the citizens of Bexar County is a paramount goal of all Public Officials. Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai and representatives of Commissioners Court, the City/County Public Safety Committee and District Attorney Joe D. Gonzales have been working on solutions to address some of the community-wide issues impacting our criminal justice system, including the processing and handling of criminal cases. While there may be much larger, systemic issues which need to be addressed, Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai charged all parties with finding immediate solutions to some of the most pressing items.

Through discussions with representatives of the District Attorney's Office, it became apparent that prosecutors were spending considerable amounts of time attempting to obtain all case-related information and evidence. Also, as a result of antiquated equipment, obtaining and reviewing evidence was taking considerably longer. On October 10, 2023, Commissioners Court took a significant step to address these issues by authorizing the negotiation of a contract with Axon for the procurement and implementation of a new digital evidence platform.

Through further work with Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai, Commissioners Court representatives, and representatives of the Public Safety Commission, District Attorney Joe Gonzales is now proposing to create a High Risk Intake Team to address certain high-risk cases as well as to review a pending backlog of criminal cases currently awaiting indictment. High risk cases will include the following: 1) crimes of violent offenses; crimes committed by repeat offenders; cases specifically identified by law enforcement; and cases or defendants identified by prosecutors based on the criminal history of the defendant or other factors. Importantly, though the measure is a temporary solution to a systemic problem resulting from an increased volume of evidence, antiquated software, and unfilled vacancies within the Office of the District Attorney, it is anticipated that this proposed solution will work to temporarily address an important public safety issue.

Prosecutors will voluntarily perform work on the High Risk Intake Team and will be paid additional compensation for the additional work. To be eligible to participate, a prosecutor must have worked a minimum of 40 hours during the work week. In addition, a High Risk Intake Team policy will be prepared which specifically addresses

payment issues and defines performance and accountability measures used to ensure that the additional funds are well spent.

Because of the vacancies that the District Attorney's Office has had and will continue to have, at least in the near future, the Office is requesting that \$295,428.00 of those unused funds be allocated to compensate prosecutors who work additional hours as part of the High Risk Intake Team.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Presentation, discussion, and appropriate action regarding a proposal related to public safety meetings between the City of San Antonio and Bexar County officials authorizing the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney to utilize unused funds in the amount of \$295,428.00 resulting from vacant positions within the Office of the District Attorney to fund a High Risk Intake Team to aid in the identification of high risk cases and assist in the reduction of Intake Division backlog.

FISCAL ASSESSMENT: APPLICABLE Yes ☒ No ☐ Fiscal Note ☐

1	Is this a revenue or expense?	Revenue <input type="checkbox"/>	Expense <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Dollar amount of revenue or expense associated with item?	\$295,428	
3	Is this a budgeted revenue or expense?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Does this item require additional staff?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Will this increase your current budget?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Impact on future Budget? If Yes, Explain in Comments.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Current End-of-Year Expenditure Estimate-for impacted Object Code(s)?	\$ 51,342,774	
8	If an expense, what is the current Object Code budget amount?	\$ 51,342,774	
9	If an expense, are sufficient funds currently budgeted in the Object Code?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	If an expense, are sufficient funds currently budgeted in the Appropriation?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
11	List impacted offices or departments or note if countywide:	Criminal District Attorney's Office	
12	Fund:	100: General Fund	
13	Org Number and Agency Code:	1300: Criminal District Attorney's Office	
14	Object Code Number:	50100: Staff Overtime	
15	If this is a grant, what is the estimated amount of program income?		
16	If this is a grant, what is the amount of Grantor funding?		
17	If this is a grant, what is the required County cash match?		
18	If this is a grant, what is the required County in-kind/allocation match?		
19	If this is a grant, was item approved by the Grant Review Committee?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
20	<p>Comments: This is an unbudgeted expense for the Overtime account of the Criminal District Attorney's General Fund budget. Sufficient funding does not exist in the Overtime account to cover the cost of this item; however, sufficient funding currently exists within the Personnel appropriation for the approval of this item. The District Attorney's Office anticipates that savings due to employee turnover will cover the cost of this unbudgeted expense.</p> <p>The Personnel appropriation will be monitored during the fiscal year to ensure the appropriation has sufficient funding to meet its obligations. The Office anticipates this funding will be utilized over a three-month time frame. Any additional requests for overtime funding will be brought before the Commissioners Court for approval.</p>		
21	Coordinated By:	Verified By:	

21	Coordinated By:		Verified By:	Thomas DeCesare (9/26/2023)
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