

Legislation Text

File #: 15-21358, Version: 1

National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative FY 2023: National Cold Case Initiative Grant Program

Action:

Authorize the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$2,000,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice to implement initiatives that enhance investigations of violent crime cold cases.

Staff Resource(s):

Johnny Jennings, Police
Steven Brochu, Police
Joel McNelly, Police

Explanation

- The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) often applies for grants to fund programs and expenses that support the approved operating budget.
- CMPD has received the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant from the U.S Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance since Fiscal Year 2016.
- The goal of the grant program is to enhance previous efforts by implementing a comprehensive approach to resolve violent crime.
- FY 2023 SAKI purpose area 6 grant funds will be used to investigate violent crime cold cases that are not sexually motivated through multiple initiatives including the following:
 - Designating a Site Coordinator to serve as the central point of contact to ensure the team is meeting milestones,
 - Establishing a Multidisciplinary Working Group,
 - Developing a comprehensive strategy to address the outstanding cold cases,
 - Exploring ways to improve victim advocacy,
 - Hiring a Cold Case Analyst to conduct follow-up investigations with Violent Crime Detectives,
 - Hiring a Crime Lab Technician to assist the Criminalist DNA Analysts in preparing case files,
 - Providing overtime for Criminalist DNA Analysts to review profiles developed from violent crime cold case evidence by the private lab for entry into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS),
 - Providing overtime for Violent Crime Detectives to conduct follow-up investigations and enter criteria cases into CODIS, and
 - Hiring an Assistant District Attorney to research and prepare cases for prosecution that resulted from CODIS hits.
- The grant is for a three-year term from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2026.
- No matching contribution from the city is required.

Fiscal Note

Funding: General Grants Fund