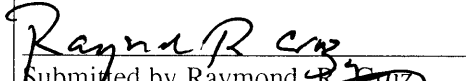


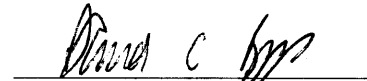


# City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

October 4, 2011  
New Business Discussion

**SUBJECT: CONSIDER APPROVING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE SHERIFF'S CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL PARK ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

  
Submitted by Raymond R. Cruz  
Public Services General Manager

  
Approved by David C. Biggs  
City Manager

## I. SUMMARY

In light of shootings at Hemingway Park and Calas Park this past summer, the City Council wished to quickly increase the Sheriff's Department's presence at the parks in an effort to deter any further incidents. At the August 2, 2011, City Council meeting, City Council approved Acting Captain Rivero's recommendation to immediately augment the Park Enforcement Team to provide immediate visibility and protection to park patrons and staff via a \$100,000.00 appropriation from the Administrative Tow Fee Fund. This initial funding will soon be exhausted; an additional appropriation is needed if the City Council wants to continue to provide enhanced law enforcement staffing at the parks. Tonight, staff is bringing forward a staff augmentation plan for the Park Enforcement Team that will last until the end of FY 2011/12.

## II. RECOMMENDATION

TAKE the following actions:

- 1) APPROVE an amendment to the Sheriff's contract to continue the enhanced level of services of the Park Enforcement Team through June 30, 2012.
- 2) APPROPRIATE \$360,000.00 from the unreserved, undesignated General Fund balance to account no. 01-90-905-032-6005 to cover the increased cost of the Sheriff's contract.

## III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

## IV. BACKGROUND

On July 22, 2011, three park patrons were shot while visiting Hemingway Park. Later that month, on July 31, 2011, a park patron was shot while at Calas Park. Fortunately, the victims' injuries were not life threatening, but the community's sense of safety was severely compromised by these acts of violence. During the August 2, 2011, City Council meeting, Acting Captain Rivero recommended augmenting the Park Enforcement Team (PET) in order to increase deputies'

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presence at the parks and act as a deterrent for any further incidents. On August 7, 2011, the recommendation was implemented and has had an immediate, positive impact on the community's safety at the city's parks. To fund this effort, on September 6, 2011, the City Council increased the Sheriff's contract by \$100,000.00. This initial funding will soon be exhausted. During this same meeting, staff also stated that they would return later with a longer-term strategy of funding the augmentation of the PET that would be effective, but would have the least impact to the City's budget.

The initial funding allotment for the staff augmentation this summer came from the Administrative Tow Fee Fund because its fund balance could accommodate the amount of the appropriation without affecting the General Fund at a time when the FY 2011/12 budget had just been adopted and balanced. More importantly, the Administrative Tow Fee Fund was established by the City Council to fund short-term emergency public safety-related items, such as this emergency augmentation to the PET. Since the Administrative Tow Fee Fund now has a minimal fund balance, and funding the PET no longer meets the criteria for utilizing the Administrative Tow Fee Fund, staff will now have to tap into the General Fund fund balance to finance the continued augmentation of the PET.

After consulting with Sheriff's Department management, staff now has a strategy to continue the augmentation of the PET. By creatively working with the Sheriff's Contract Law Unit, staff found a means by which the PET can continue working at an augmented service level at the cost of \$360,000.00 for the remainder of the fiscal year. This funding strategy can only be utilized through June 30, 2012. During the budget preparation process for FY 2012/13, staff will re-evaluate the augmented PET and make recommendations to the City Council regarding its continuation. At that time, staff will have a clearer picture of where the city stands financially. Tonight, the City Council is being asked to fund the recommended augmentation through the end of FY 2011/12. As stated in the previous staff report, the Sheriff's Department does not want to publically identify the exact levels of staffing augmentation that will be maintained, thereby giving a "heads up" to the criminal element.

**V. FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this item were not included in the adopted FY 2011/12 budget; therefore, if this item is approved, the General Fund budget appropriations will need to be increased by \$360,000.00. Funds can be appropriated from the unreserved, undesignated General Fund fund balance to account no. 01-90-905-032-6005 which will reduce the City's General Fund fund balance from approximately \$20.9 million to \$20.5 million. This will result in the General

Fund fund balance being approximately 30.3% of annual operating expenditures, which is still above the City Council fund balance goal (policy) of \$20 million. If these funds are appropriated, together with other supplemental appropriations made thus far this fiscal year, the City's General Fund budget expenditures will EXCEED revenues by \$344,328.00. The use of General Fund reserves to fund this high priority partial restoration of service is appropriate for this fiscal year given the events which necessitate the increased investment in public safety. The annual on-going cost for the PET at the level being recommended is approximately \$650,000.00 per year. In order to continue with this level of service in FY 2012/13, the General Fund budget will have to be structured in a manner to allow for this additional \$650,000.00 cost to be accommodated on an on-going basis.

VI. EXHIBITS

None.

Prepared by: Raymond R. Cruz, Public Services General Manager

TO:Rev091911

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services <i>Jaquelyn Acosta</i>	Development Services
Economic Development	Public Services

Action taken by City Council

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Action \_\_\_\_\_

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