

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-208

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE, FOR F.Y. 2014 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING.

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, has announced the availability of grant funds to state and local units of government through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG); and

WHEREAS, this program allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the funding distribution is based on population and crime statistics as well as law enforcement expenditure data; and

WHEREAS, an allocation of funding in the amount of \$78,328.00 has been made available to the County of Cumberland, City of Vineland, City of Millville, and City of Bridgeton, for which a joint application must be submitted by said units of local government; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of said parties that the City of Vineland serve as the lead entity for the purposes of submitting the application with the Bureau of Justice Assistance for funding under the F.Y. 2014 JAG Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Vineland:

1. THAT the City of Vineland is hereby authorized to file an application with the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for funding under the F.Y. 2014 Justice Assistance Grant Program on behalf of the Cities of Vineland, Millville, and Bridgeton, and the County of Cumberland.
2. THAT the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Vineland are hereby authorized and directed to execute said Application and other related documents on behalf of the City of Vineland, including a Memorandum of Understanding by and among the parties.

Adopted:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk

2014 Edward Byrne JAG Grant
City of Vineland
Digital In-Car Video System

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

The City of Vineland will utilize its share of funding from the FY 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program for the purchase, and implementation, of a digital in-car video system. In the digital age, video is all around us. From security systems at stadiums, malls, and businesses, to the mobile video capability built in to almost every phone, there are few places in today's society that are not captured on video. The increase in video use has even spread to the law enforcement profession. Many departments have deployed digital in-car video systems to record traffic stops and other encounters with the public. In the spirit of building public trust, the digital in-car video recordings provide an unbiased account of events. This, in turn, allows citizens, and others, to view what actually occurred during encounters that have been called into question. Agencies who have implemented digital in-car video systems have reported that such evidence has been invaluable and that the benefits of a system far exceeded expectations.

There are several benefits to a digital in-car video system for law enforcement, which include:

- Improved citizen confidence in the police profession through accountability and transparency
- Enhance the ability to identify and convict violators
- Contribute to officer safety through routine review and training of recorded video
- Record valuable evidence of criminal activity

The use of a digital in-car video system for law enforcement is not new, and numerous studies and polls have been conducted to evaluate their effectiveness. These studies have shown that approximately 82% of drunk driving offenders have plead no contest, officer complaints, in some areas, have been reduced by up to 80%, and most importantly, almost 93% of officers were found to be in favor of having an digital in-car video system available for their use.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

The Vineland Police Department will utilize its share of the funding for the purchase, installation, and configuration of a digital in-car video system. Expenditures for this grant will include the full awarded amount of \$20,757 to be used for "Equipment" expenses. It is estimated that enough equipment will be purchased to equip 4-5 vehicles with digital in-car video systems.

ABSTRACT

Digital in-car video has proven to be one of the most important technologies for law enforcement today. In-car video greatly enhances officer safety, protects the community from false accusations, and reduces the burden on the courts from contested arrests. Available technology for digital systems provide a greater value for agencies and the community as it provides superior quality images and audio, and is easily stored and retrieved, and copies directly to disk. Most importantly, some systems available today are now able to record in a tamperproof format to secure the integrity of the recordings for court.

The City of Vineland will utilize its share of funding from the FY 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program for an digital in-car video system for Police Department vehicles. It is estimated that enough equipment can be purchased, with the available funds, to equip 4-5 vehicles with video capability. The department is committed to the effectiveness of this program, and intends to expand the project as funds become available.

Purchases for this project will be made in the following 2012 JAG project identifier areas:

- Equipment- Video/Audio Recording
- Traffic Enforcement
- Computer software/hardware
- Officer safety
- System Improvements