



**DATE:** October 16, 2018

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to Appropriate Asset Forfeiture Funds from the Asset Forfeiture Fund Balance for Narcotics Forensic Analysis Equipment and for Narcotics Detective Training

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the City Council adopts the attached resolution to appropriate a total of \$40,000 from Asset Forfeiture Fund balance.

### **SUMMARY**

The Hayward Police Department will utilize asset forfeiture funds currently in fund balance to enhance the Department's narcotics testing capabilities and to provide training for narcotics detectives.

### **BACKGROUND**

First responders and detectives of the Hayward Police Department are required to conduct presumptive tests of seized narcotics to obtain criminal complaints against subjects involved in the possession of/or sale of illegal narcotics. To enhance officer safety and to aid in forensic analysis, the Department plans to purchase a field-ready handheld instrument specifically designed for non-contact forensic analysis of narcotics, pharmaceutical drugs, cutting agents, and precursors to mitigate first responders' accidental exposure.

The Hayward Police Department plans to utilize asset forfeiture funds to pay the cost for the members of the Narcotics Unit to attend the 2018 Annual California Narcotic Officers' Association Training, Conference which is an approved use of Asset Forfeiture funds by statute.

### **DISCUSSION**

In the last several years, U.S. law enforcement has seen a dramatic increase in the availability of dangerous synthetic opioids, including Fentanyl. The presence of these synthetic opioids in the illicit U.S. drug market is extremely concerning as the potency of these drugs has led to a

significant increase in first responder accidental exposures, overdose incidents, and overdose-related deaths throughout the nation. These drugs once airborne can create life-threatening accidental exposures. The situation is so dangerous and concerning for first responders that the DEA has issued warnings to all first responders.

Purchasing the handheld narcotics identification unit will allow our first responders and detectives to conduct presumptive tests of suspected drugs in most cellophane and clear containers discovered in a suspect's possession without the need to open the package or container, therefore minimizing the risk of accidental exposure and hazards to department personnel.

Providing up to date training for narcotics officers is imperative in the fight against drugs in our community. For 54 years, the California Narcotic Officers' Association (CNOA) has offered the finest training available to law enforcement. Recognizing the nexus of drugs to many other crimes, CNOA Training Programs bring relevant information to all law enforcement officers across the nation. For these reasons, staff would like to utilize Asset Forfeiture funds to send the Narcotics Unit to the annual CNOA Training Conference in November of 2018.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding the purchase of narcotics forensic analysis equipment and narcotics detective training through Asset Forfeiture funds will allow the Police Department to enhance officer safety and increase detective training without impacting the City's general fund budget.

### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

This agenda item supports the Complete Communities Strategic Initiative. The purpose of the Complete Communities initiative is to create and support structures, services and amenities to provide inclusive and equitable access with the goal of becoming a thriving and promising place to live, work and play for all. This item supports the following goal and objectives:

Goal 1: Improve quality of life for residents, business owners, and community members in all Hayward neighborhoods.

Objective 1: Increase neighborhood safety and cohesion

### **NEXT STEPS**

If the Council authorizes this action, staff will appropriate the funding into the Police Department's asset forfeiture fund budget.

*Prepared by:* Captain Jason Martinez

*Recommended by:* Chief of Police Mark Koller

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K McAadoo', written in a cursive style.

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Kelly McAadoo, City Manager