



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the Council

From: Montré D. Freeman, City Manager
J. Phillip Webster, Chief of Police

Date: April 19, 2024

Subject: Update -Violent Crime Reduction Initiative

BACKGROUND:

In March 2023, Elizabeth City and the Elizabeth City Police Department solicited federal funds to support the Violent Crimes Reduction Initiative (VCRI). Jonathan Hawley was and is the point person in this initiative on behalf of the City.

On March 26, 2024, Congressman Don Davis and his staff presented a check for \$440,000 to the City. The funding will be used to support the Violent Crime Reduction Initiative. The VCRI is a technology project that is divided into four parts:

1. **National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)** - also referred to as Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) - is a system and database for cataloging and cross-referencing shell casings with existing ballistic evidence.
2. **Acoustic Threat Detection (ATD)** - this technology reliably identifies shots fired in proximity to a sensor. This technology is essential to optimize the use of patrol officers, especially in a time of police shortages. In addition to reducing officer response time and time spent on erroneous "shots fired" reports, ATD units can pinpoint shots fired more accurately, hastening response time for arrest and victim aid.
3. **Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)** - allows agencies to scan, upload, and search databases of fingerprints and palm prints collected at crime scenes. These prints may be queried against state and federal databases.

4. **Mobile Device Forensics Extraction Unit-** this device gives ECPD the capacity to execute searches against mobile devices and to obtain their data quickly to resolve active situations or overcome a lack of cooperation from suspects.

ANALYSIS:

Following the March 26th award presentation by Congressman Davis, the ECPD reached out for additional information on the timing of the funding release. We are now in the process of collecting fresh quotes in order to implement the VCRI when the resources are made available.

We have learned that grant recipients have been directed to go through the application process for the OJP Byrne Discretionary Grants. This grant process has been established to manage projects authorized in the 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 118-42). With the addition of the OJP Byrne Discretionary Grants process, we have not yet been given a firm timeline for the fund disbursement schedule.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

For Council information only. Item requires no action.