September 13, 2010

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF DONATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Board of Police Commissioners approve the donation to cover expenses for four employees from Special Investigation Section (SIS), Robbery Homicide Division to observe and train with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

DONOR INFORMATION:

Los Angeles Police Foundation (#192-10)
Ms. Cecilia Glassman, President
515 South Flower Street, Suite 1680
Los Angeles, California 90071
(213) 489-4636

ITEM: Airfare, food and lodging
AMOUNT/VALUE: $11,027.00

DISCUSSION

This donation will benefit SIS, Robbery Homicide Division. This donation will allow four SIS employees to travel to Northern Ireland to observe and train during their assessment process and surveillance and tactical operations of the PSNI, Special Operations Branch (SOB). The SIS representatives will also observe alternative arrest and containment procedures that are utilized by the SOB. Upon return from the trip the group will brief the Tactics Committee which includes the Directors of Office of Administrative Services, Police Training and Education, Office of Special Operations, and the Chief of Detectives on what they learned.

Administrative Services Bureau has reviewed the donation and determined that it has been submitted in accordance with Section 5.467 et seq. of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, which provides for the receipt and acceptance of donations to the Police Department.
If you have any questions, please contact Lieutenant Adam Bercovici, Officer in Charge, Special Investigation Section, Robbery-Homicide Division, at (213) 216-3849.

Respectfully,

CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

Attachment
Attached is the latest grant request.

Grant Application received: June 14, 2010
Grant Received from: Robbery Homicide – Special Investigation Section
Contact: Lt. Adam Bercovici
Phone #: (213) 486-6880
Grant Name: Tactical Surveillance Training Exchange Program
Grant Amount: $11,027.00

Please Fax this information to Administrative Services Bureau at 213-485-8125 or if you have any questions, please contact us at 213-485-3277.
Thank you.
2010 GRANT APPLICATION

Grant Number 2010-05 (office use only) $ 5,513. 60

Date: June 1, 2010 Amount Requested $ 4,000.00 Total Training cost $ 11,027. 00

(50% of above cost supplied by private donor. Amount Requested from Foundation is $ 5,513.50 (Approximate)

Contact Name(s): Lieutenant Adam Bercovic or Detective II Chris Brazzill

Department/Unit: Robbery-Homicide Division, Special Investigation Section

Mailing Address: 100 West 1st Street, 5th Floor, Los Angeles CA, 90012

Phone Number: 213-846-6880 Fax Number: 213-486-6329

E-mail Address: 2325@laph.lacity.org, 27106@lapd.lacity.org

Name of Program/Equipment requesting funding for: Tactical Surveillance Training Exchange Program

Provide a brief description and the need for the program/equipment (use additional paper if needed):

See attached page 2

Has this program/equipment previously been requested through the city budget? x YES □ NO

If yes, please list the most recent date of submission and the result. May 27 2010. Advised by CIO Training Division that there were no funds available to support this program.

If no, please explain the reason why it was not submitted. N/A

What objectives will be accomplished if the funding is granted? See attached pages

How can the foundation evaluate success if the funding is granted? See attached pages

Please list or attach an itemized list for expenses or a quote from equipment manufacturer on vendor's letterhead. Private Donor located. Will fund fifty percent of the training. See attached pages

Has your commanding officer approved this request? x YES □ NO

Name of commanding officer: Captain III Kevin J. McClure, Robbery-Homicide Division

Signature of commanding officer:

Send completed grant application form by fax (213) 489-4697 or email bryan@lapolicefoundation.org or call Beth Ryan at (213) 489-4636 with any questions, comments or concerns.
Brief description and the need for the program:

The Special Investigation Section (SIS), Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD) is the only tactical surveillance unit in the United States. A twenty-one person unit, SIS detectives work cases involving some of the most violent and dangerous criminals in the region. The Special Investigation Section is also the primary tactical element in all kidnaps for ransom, specializing in the safe recovery of the victim(s).

Specifically, Tactical Surveillance is the ability to transition from a covert position, where remaining undetected is the goal, to overt armed interdiction using speed and surprise to make an arrest.

The Special Investigation Section is nationally recognized. Regularly, units from other law enforcement agencies seek out SIS for training. In addition, SIS has become a training partner with covert military units such as the SEALS, U.S. Army 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment- DELTA and the Naval Special Warfare Logistics Group.

The Special Operations Branch (SOB) of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is the premier undercover tactical unit in Europe. They have developed new techniques and concepts. They have six teams that are the size of SIS and operate throughout Northern Ireland. These teams have an almost identical function to SIS, the difference being that because of the number of teams they are controlled by a central command post. They have developed new techniques that include surveillance management, deployment of special weapons, and most importantly, systems that deal specifically with urban terrorism.

The Special Investigation Section has reached a point where it can gain very little from other agencies in the United States. SIS would benefit from training with another entity that has a similar if not more advanced systems and tactics.

It is an unfortunate but realistic fact that urban terrorism and the crimes that support it are part of modern law enforcement. These crimes include many of the ones that SIS and the PSNI's SOB already deal with (i.e., robberies and kidnappings).

During the period from March 20 to April 2, 2010, Sergeants Michael Claw and Andrew Sloan came to Los Angeles, specifically to train with and observe the operational methods of the Special Investigation Section. Sergeants Claw and Sloan are two of the principal trainers for the PSNI. This trip was a resounding success and has made an impact at an international level. It was recently commented to Chief Michael Downing, of the Counter-Terrorism Bureau, by Mark Cochrane, Chief of training for the PSNI, that the training that was provided to Sergeants Claw and Sloan will have an immediate impact for their organization and will save lives.
A request has been made by the PSNI that four members of SIS travel to Ireland to observe and train with the PSNI during their formal assessment process. It is during this period that candidates are selected for the sixteen week surveillance school.

It has become a realistic fact that the very first responders to any large scale armed attack on the City of Los Angeles will be members of the Police Department, specifically specialized units like SIS. The ability to select and train the right people to do a job that is more complex and dangerous than ever has become very important.

Currently, SIS has a formal selection process that identifies candidates for selection. The PSNI has taken this to a more advanced level. The ability to observe and gain insight from this training would be invaluable to the Department. Although there are certain organizational differences that would preclude the LAPD from adopting every method, many aspects could be tailored to the Department’s needs.

The PSNI has a training facility where they put their personnel through exercises that are relative to the function of SOB. It is also important to note that the SIS Officer-in-Charge is the coordinator for the Department’s newest plain clothes Training Course.

This trip would provide the OIC with valuable insight and direction to plain clothes operation at the international level. It is vital that SIS keeps up to date with the newest technology and tactics that are available. The investigators assigned to SIS would gain valuable expertise through a training exchange with the PSNI; a police organization that has a long and successful history of dealing with violent criminals.

Tactical surveillance or the ability to transition from an undercover capacity to tactical interdiction is becoming the most effective way to not only deal with traditional violent crime, but with terrorism as well.

What objectives will be accomplished if the funding is granted?

During the period of September 25, 2010 through October 9, 2010 four members of SIS will travel to Northern Ireland to observe the assessment process and surveillance and tactical operations. The areas that will be addressed are Tactical Operations Management, Firearms and Tactics, Kidnappings and surveillance technologies.

It is requested that four members of SIS attend the training in September and October of 2010. The SIS attendees would be the Lieutenant, Officer in Charge and two subject matter expert supervisors, Detective III rank and one subject matter expert Detective II. One Detective III will be the section and tactics instructor; the other will be the section’s kidnap and computer lead expert. The Detective II will be one of the section’s lead firearms instructors.
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Each of these Police Department members would have a specific function as part of this program.

The Lieutenant OIC would be able to observe and evaluate the operations system of the PSNI, specifically, the selection program and the field operations systems. The Detective III tactics expert would be the evaluator of the training and operational tactics. The Detective III kidnap expert would be the evaluator of kidnapping and technology protocol. The Detective II firearms expert would do the same for lethal and less lethal systems.

How can the Foundation evaluate success if the funding is granted?

Tactical Surveillance or the ability to transition from an undercover capacity to tactical interdiction is becoming the most effective way to not only deal with traditional violent crime, but with terrorism as well. This exchange will allow members of one highly specialized unit to exchange information and develop a partnership with another specialized unit. In addition, the information gained during this trip can be channeled at many different levels when it is brought back. This includes but is not limited to management insight, tactical development and the ability to bring back new concepts in surveillance and anti-kidnapping and terrorism technology. All of which will improve the ability of the Police Department to protect the citizens of Los Angeles. It is certainly in the best interests of the Department and the City of Los Angeles that this training takes place.

Donor Information:

Developer Rick Caruso has agreed to make a donation to the Police Foundation to cover half the cost of the training.

Please list or attach an itemized list of expenses or a quote from the equipment manufacturer on vendor's letterhead.

The total cost of the trip: $11,027.

The Section is requesting that the Foundation provide a grant in the amount of approximately $5,513.05 to cover half the cost of the program.

The cost breakdown (an approximation based on airfares and exchange rates) for four employees for a 15-day trip is as follows:

Airfare: $3,848 (Round Trip LAX to Belfast including connecting flights)

Lodging: $3,009.24 (two double rooms each 80 English Pounds per night)

Per Diem: $3,600 ($60.00 per day for 15 days) will be reimbursed.

Rental: $570.00
September 1, 2010
8.6

TO: Commanding Officer, Administrative Services Bureau

FROM: Commanding Officer, Robbery Homicide Division

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO ACCEPT DONATION

It is requested that Administrative Services Bureau approve and forward correspondence to the Board of Police Commissioners to accept the solicited monetary donation in the amount of $11,027.00 from the Los Angeles Police Foundation. The donation is for the benefit of the Special Investigation Section (SIS), Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD). The money will be used to pay for airfare, lodging, and meals for the following purpose: During the period of September 25, 2010, through October 9, 2010, four members of SIS will travel to Northern Ireland to observe the assessment process and surveillance, and tactical operations of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Special Operations Branch (SOB). Additionally, the SIS representatives will observe alternative arrest and containment procedures that are utilized by the SOB. The members of SIS will be observing only, at no time will they be participating in any actual field operations. A supervisor from Training Division, Tactics and Firearms Unit, will be traveling with the group as well. Travel costs for the Training Division Supervisor are being paid for by Training Division and the Revolving Training Fund (RTF). Upon return from the trip the group will brief the Tactics Committee which includes the commanding officers of Office of Administrative Services, Police Training and Education, Office of Special Operations and Detective Bureau on what they learned.

This donation is monetary only and originally solicited when no Department Funds were available to pay for the trip. All conflicts of interests have been researched and no City vendors were involved. There are no technological or software purchases related to this donation. No vehicles are being purchased with this donation. There is no ongoing maintenance associated with the acceptance of this donation. This donation will have no impact of the Department’s special and/or general fund.

The Los Angeles Police Foundation is a regular supporter of the Los Angeles Police Department. They assist with the purchase of training and/or equipment needs that cannot be funded by the regular budget.

The Los Angeles Police Foundation is located at 515 Flower Street, Suite 1680, Los Angeles, California, 90071. Ms. Beth Ryan is the contact person and is aware of all of the details that were part of this specific grant approval process.
Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Lieutenant Adam Bercovici, Officer in Charge, Special Investigation Section, Robbery-Homicide Division, at (213) 216-3849.

APPROVED:

KEVIN L. McCLURE, Captain
Commanding Officer
Robbery-Homicide Division

DAVID R. DOAN, Deputy Chief
Chief of Detectives