



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Sheriff's Office



Date: October 17, 2013

Board Meeting Date: December 10, 2013

Special Notice / Hearing: None

Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Greg Munks, Sheriff

Subject: Purchase of a Tattoo Removal Laser Machine

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution:

- A) Accepting a donation in the amount of \$56,107.80 from the Redwood City Police Activities League for the purchase of a tattoo removal laser machine; and
- B) Authorizing the County Purchasing Agent to purchase a tattoo removal laser machine in the amount of \$106,108.

BACKGROUND:

The Tattoo Removal Program is a collaborative effort between the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, San Mateo County Sheriff's Activities League, Juvenile Probation, the Redwood City Police Department, and the Redwood City Police Activities League. The program aims to serve two missions; provide a tattoo removal service to people who have a strong desire to completely leave gang life, and offer an opportunity for domestic violence victims to remove unwanted tattoos. Often times, during the course of a relationship, victims will be forced to tattoo a name upon their body to mark the victim as "property." The removal of the tattoo is helpful as part of the healing process.

It was discovered through interviews of former gang members that tattoos are a stigma that follows them throughout their lives. As a result, tattoo removal is an important part of breaking their association from the gang lifestyle and creating a person free of marks or symbols that stand in the way of establishing employment and building relationships. This is a significant step in the victim's rehabilitation process.

The Tattoo Removal Program was also designed to give the participating former gang member an opportunity to give back to their community. Each participant completes community service hours to participate in the program. To date, participants have contributed over 1,000 hours of public service.

A team of doctors and nurses are the backbone of the Tattoo Removal Program and are instrumental to the success of the program. They volunteer their time to provide an invaluable service that reduces social stigma and helps domestic violence victims take charge of their own lives.

The tattoo removal process uses a laser which is a charged beam of light that passes across the surface of the skin to penetrate the ink in the tattoo. The laser breaks up large clumps of ink to form tiny particles. The small particles are then carried away by the skin's immune system. It generally takes between 6-15 sessions to remove a tattoo.

The program has been on hold for approximately two years since the original laser machine could no longer be repaired nor maintained. Due to the loss of this equipment, the list of anticipated participants grows daily.

DISCUSSION:

The Tattoo Removal Program held several events in the hopes of raising enough funds through donations to purchase new tattoo removal laser equipment to replace the broken machine last used two years ago.

The cost of a new laser machine is approximately \$106,107. The Redwood City Police Activities League managed the donations for the program and now wishes to donate \$56,107.80 to the Sheriff's Office for the purchase of the laser machine. The remaining \$50,000 will come from a combination of a contribution from the Probation Department (\$25,000) and the use of Asset Forfeiture Funds (\$25,000). The County will retain ownership of the equipment.

The program's doctors prefer the Medelite C6 System for tattoo removal, and the volunteer doctors are all trained in the use of the Medelite equipment. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the County to waive the formal bid process and authorize the County's Purchasing Agent to purchase the laser equipment from Medelite.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolutions as to form.

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the 2025 Shared Vision outcome of a Collaborative Community by requiring former gang members to participate in community service throughout the County.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Measures	FY 2012-13 Actual	FY 2013-14 Projected
Number of individuals participating in the Tattoo Removal Program	N/A	75
Community service hours completed by program participants	N/A	1,500

The Tattoo Removal Program has not been operational for the past two years. The FY 2013-14 Projected performance measures are based on a six month period (January to June 2014) once the program is outfitted with the tattoo removal equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of the Medelite C6 System is approximately \$106,108. Funding to purchase the machine will come from a donation of \$56,107.80 from the Redwood City Police Activities League, \$25,000 from the Probation Department, and \$25,000 from Asset Forfeiture Funds. The County will purchase and maintain title of the Medelite C6 System. Equipment maintenance, program insurance and other program costs will be paid by the Redwood City Police Activities League through future donations. There is no Net County Cost.