County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: SHERIFF
File #: 18-891

Board Meeting Date: 9/25/2018

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Carlos G. Bolanos, Sheriff

Subject: 2018 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution:

A) Accepting the 2018 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program grant award in the amount of $150,000, for the term January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020; and

B) Authorizing an Appropriation Transfer Request (ATR) recognizing $150,000 in grant funds from the Office of Justice Programs - U.S. Department of Justice.

BACKGROUND:

The Forensic DNA Backlog Capacity Enhancement and Reduction Program, through the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, offers an opportunity for government entities with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to handle, screen and analyze backlogged forensic DNA casework samples. This grant program also assists with improving DNA laboratory infrastructure and analysis capacity so that forensic DNA samples can be processed efficiently and cost effectively. These improvements are critical to preventing future DNA backlogs and to helping the criminal justice system use the full potential of DNA technology.

As of December 31, 2017, the Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory had an estimated 531 backlogged cases awaiting DNA analysis. A backlogged case, as defined by the National Institute of Justice, is one that has not been tested 30 days after submission to the laboratory.

DISCUSSION:

The Sheriff's Office applied for and has been awarded the 2018 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program grant in the amount of $150,000, for a period commencing January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020. Funding will assist with overall turnaround time for the

handling, screening, and analysis of forensic DNA samples, increase the throughput of the Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory, and reduce existing DNA forensic casework backlogs.

The DNA Backlog Capacity Enhancement and Reduction (CEBR) Program award will be applied towards funding travel and training expenses and purchasing supplies for use in evidence examination.

The funding provided by the grant also allows our DNA analysts to fulfill their annual training requirement. These trainings provide our DNA analysts with the opportunity to learn about new technologies such as new robotics and software programs used by other forensic laboratories to reduce their backlogs and enhance their capacity. Our DNA analysts also benefit from hearing about upcoming technologies and advances in the field of forensic DNA that are in development but not yet in use in laboratory casework.

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

Approval of this grant award contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Safe Neighborhood by assisting with the reduction of the DNA backlog rate and turn-around time as well as helping the criminal justice system use the full potential of DNA technology.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE:

Measure	FY 2017-18 Actual	FY 2018-19 Projected
Average turnaround time to complete cases	248 days	250 days

FISCAL IMPACT:
The 2018 DNA Backlog Capacity Enhancement and Reduction (CEBR) Program grant award is for the amount of $150,000, commencing January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020. The appropriation of $150,000 will be offset by incoming grant funds. This grant does not require matching County funds. There is no Net County Cost.