

## COMMUNICATION

**TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

**File No. 10-1723**

**FROM: COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR  
COUNCILMEMBER DENNIS P. ZINE, MEMBER  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR AND MEMBER, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE relative to modifying the budget for the 2009 Solving Cold Cases with Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Program grant, and increasing existing DNA analysis service contracts.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. AUTHORIZE the Chief of Police, or designee, to:
  - a. Reprogram \$112,625 in 2009 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Program grant funds from the United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice.
  - b. Negotiate, execute, and submit all necessary documents relative to the grant award cooperative agreement to the grantor; and, to negotiate, execute, and submit any other necessary agreements and documents relative to the grant, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.
  - c. Increase existing contracts with Orchid Cellmark, Bode Technology, Serological Research Institute, and Fairfax Identity Laboratories by an amount not to exceed \$112,625 for contractual services related to DNA analysis.
2. AUTHORIZE the Police Department to prepare Controller's instructions for any technical adjustments consistent with this action, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO); and, REQUEST that the Controller implement the instructions.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The CAO reports that this action will not impact the General Fund. Program costs are fully reimbursable and matching funds are not required. The above recommendations comply with City financial policies, inasmuch as one-time expenditures are fully funded through a one-time source of funds.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

In a report to Council dated January 9, 2012 (attached to the Council file), the CAO states that the Police Department requests authority to modify funding categories for the 2009 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Program grant funds. According to the CAO, the major objectives of the 2009 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Program are: the review and prioritization of "cold" homicides and sexual assault cases that have the potential of being solved through DNA analysis; the retrieval and evaluation of biological evidence; DNA analysis of biological evidence likely to yield results from those cases reviewed; and, follow-up investigations. The 2009 grant award provided the Police Department with \$1,128,519 in funding to review and process 800 homicide and sexual assault cases that have the potential of being solved through DNA analysis. Grant funds can be used to

reimburse Police Department expenses such as overtime, travel, equipment, and consultant and contract costs.

The CAO reports that due to advances in DNA technologies, samples from crime scenes once thought to be unsuitable for DNA testing or samples that generated inconclusive results may now yield DNA profiles. Accordingly, the Department wants to modify the current 2009 grant budget to reallocate \$112,625 from various line items to fund contract laboratory services to perform DNA analysis on evidence obtained from additional cold cases.

On October 25, 2011, the Board of Police Commissioners approved the Police Department's request to modify the grant program budget. The CAO concurs with this action.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting held January 27, 2012, the Committee Chair and member recommended that Council approve the CAO's recommendations to authorize the Police Department to modify the 2009 Solving Cold Cases with DNA Program grant budget, as recommended by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Respectfully submitted,

**- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -**

MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DENNIS P. ZINE, MEMBER  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
KREKORIAN	ABSENT
ZINE:	YES

jaw  
[10-1723\\_rpt\\_ps\\_1-31-2012](#)