

## Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Shetter and members of the Burleson City Council

From: Tom Cowan, Chief of Police

Date: May 4, 2009

Subject: Authorize Community Policing Training for the Police Department.

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### **Council Action Requested:**

Authorize staff to retain the services of Dr. Phillip Lyons to develop and implement a comprehensive Community Policing implementation program for the Burleson Police Department for a not to exceed amount of \$69,000.

### **Background Information:**

In October of 2008 Dr. Alex del Carmen presented "A Strategic Plan for Police Services for the Burleson Police Department 2009-2013." The cornerstone of this plan is to implement and evaluate a community policing philosophy throughout the department.

In order to accomplish this task, the Burleson Police Department has formed a relationship with the Texas Regional Center for Policing Innovation (RCPI) at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. Dr. Phillip Lyons of Sam Houston State University's College of Criminal Justice has been selected to develop and teach the community policing training curriculum for the department and consult with us on coordination of the implementation program. Assisting in the program will be Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Williams, an Associate Research Professor at the School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver.

Dr. Lyons is a Professor in the College of Criminal Justice and serves as the Executive Director for the Texas Regional Center for Policing Innovation (TRCPI, formerly the Texas Regional Community Policing Institute). TRCPI is part of the only network of its kind which provides training and technical assistance on a variety of community policing and other, timely law enforcement topics to state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. TRCPI is committed to fostering police-

community relationships leading to innovative methods of reducing crime and improving neighborhood safety. Dr. Lyons has written or coauthored dozens of scholarly and professional works, including books, book chapters, and journal articles.

Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Williams holds a D.P.A. from the University of Colorado Denver, a M.C.J. from University of Colorado Denver, and a B.A. in History and Sociology from Metropolitan State College in Denver. Currently Dr. Williams is the Director of the Executive Leadership Masters in Criminal Justice (ELMCJ), as well as the Police Executive Leadership Certificate Program (PELCP). Dr. Williams is past Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) at Sam Houston State University (1994-97). He served as Chief of Police for Arvada and Aurora, Colorado; was President of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) for two years; and is past Chairman of the National Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (1989-92). Dr. Williams was also a member of the National Institute of Justice series *Perspectives on Policing* held at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (1989-91).

The training program will include community, departmental and city focus groups, classroom instruction, and meetings with the Burleson Police Department supervisors to develop and implement the Community Oriented Policing Strategies and to coach and mentor the Chief of Police and appropriate members of the Executive Management Team on implementation.

Included in the services to be provided to the City is an evaluation by the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT). LEMIT was created by the 70th Texas Legislature to develop the administrative, analytical, and executive skills of current and future law enforcement officials. Public administration, management issues, the political, legal, and social environments of policing, and advanced technical issues are studied in detail. It is the largest and most sophisticated statewide preparation program for police management in the United States and was placed under the control of the President of Sam Houston University by the Texas Legislature in 1993.

Dr. Lyons will be presenting an overview of the training curriculum and timeline at the May 4, 2009 City Council meeting.

**Board/Citizen Input:**

N/A

**Financial Considerations:**

Should Council favorably receive Dr. Lyon's presentation, Dr. Lyons will be retained and paid from the \$47,000 budgeted and available in the Department's "Consultant/Other Professional Services" account for the current fiscal year. The remaining \$22,000 to complete the training will be requested in the FY 2009-2010 departmental operating budget.

**Attachments:**

N/A

**Staff Contact:**

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