



# Rapid City Police Department

## Administration

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An Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency  
~~Craig Tieszen, Chief of Police~~ — ~~Jim Shaw, Mayor~~



April 18, 2007

TO: Mayor Jim Shaw and Council Members

FROM: Craig Tieszen, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Requests

- A) To apply for grant funding for police officers
- B) Permission to enter negotiation with Rapid City Schools for additional Liaison officer at Central High School

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has grant money available to support highway safety initiatives by local law enforcement. These monies, administered by the State, are available to support personnel for directed highway safety projects. In 2005 the Rapid City Police Department was awarded a grant to address high risk drivers with suspended and revoked licenses. We received 100% funding for two police officers for two years to launch this project. Our STOP (Serious Traffic Offender Program) has been highly successful and last month we received the National Lifesaver award at the annual NHTSA conference in Chicago.

This prestigious award and recognition makes the Rapid City Police Department a prime candidate for additional NHTSA funding. The current emphasis is on drunk driving and we have been offered the opportunity to apply for 100% funding for two police officers for one (and probably two) years to address that problem. Fortunately, that fits well with our focus on drunk driving issues in our community. There is NO requirement (as there was with COPS funding) that these positions be retained when the grants expire. However, if the Council concurs with the consensus of staff that we should expect significant economic growth (and corresponding sales tax revenues) in the next couple of years this grant would provide an opportunity to address that growth while it is occurring without having to support the positions until the revenue is realized.

In summary, I believe this is an excellent funding opportunity that fits well with our Department goals and I recommend you approve this request to apply.

Secondly, as you recall, I applied last year for a second liaison officer at Central High School. That request fell victim to the city-wide staffing freeze caused by budget constraints. At the same time the Sheriff's Office was successful in adding a second liaison to their staff at Stevens High School.

The need at Central remains a high priority. Our officer there is statistically the busiest officer on the Department. After all, Central High School is a small city with 2,500 residents. With one officer we are unable to provide security for all classes and events at that school. Nor are we able to contribute to the education, counseling and mentoring as much as we would like. Currently the school district pays half the wages of liaison officers during the school year (3/8 of the annual wage). Last year they were very interested in budgeting for that additional position at Central just as they did for Stevens.

I request permission to begin negotiations with the school district to add a second liaison officer at Central High School at a cost of approximately \$30,000/year plus rollup.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Obviously, they will all come back to the Council for final approval. Both the grant application and school district negotiation need to be completed in the next 30 days. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.