

# Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/08/21

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 21-0362

LOG NAME: 0202OPOM GRANT FARE

## **SUBJECT**

(ALL) Ratify Application for and Authorize Acceptance of a Monetary Grant in the Amount of \$21,600.00 from the North Texas Community Foundation to Support the Salary of Two Part-Time Law Student Interns Dedicated Solely to the Office of the Police Oversight Monitor and Adopt Attached Ordinance

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify the application and authorize the acceptance of a monetary grant in the amount of \$21,600.00 from North Texas Community Foundation; and
  2. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Other Fund, subject to receipt of the grant, in the amount of \$21,600.00 for the purpose of funding the salary of two part-time law student interns.
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## **DISCUSSION:**

In partnership with North Texas Community Foundation fund holders, Rainwater Charitable Foundation, Sid W. Richardson Foundation, The Miles Foundation, Colonial Savings, and Texas Bank and Trust, the Fund to Advance Racial Equity was established in 2020 to provide support to nonprofits and municipal entities working to achieve a more equitable community for all. The Office of the Police Oversight Monitor (OPOM) was established in February 2020 to provide oversight and accountability of the Fort Worth Police Department (FWPD). Implementing recommendations from the City's Race and Culture Task Force on Fort Worth law enforcement was recommended in December 2018. Kim Neal, the City of Fort Worth's first Police Monitor, was appointed in March 2020. The funding of \$21,600.00 will be used to support at least two interns to further OPOM's goals of enhancing community-police relations in Fort Worth. The interns' projects will include researching and benchmarking promising governing policing policies and practices including, but not limited to, use of force, active pursuits, stops, searches, body worn cameras and other recording/video systems, recruitment and training as well as researching and drafting a state-of-the-art community-police mediation program. Interns will not be accessing confidential "G" file material.

Furthermore, OPOM oversees a Mutual Accountability Working Group (MAG) that was recommended to City Council on December 1, 2020. The Working Group is ad hoc and has been in existence since the end of December to now, working through putting together a recommendation for an accountability board; the initial purpose of this board is to review and make procedure and policy recommendations regarding FWPD general orders and practices. The interns would support the OPOM with administration for the group. The ultimate goal is to ensure Fort Worth law enforcement's policies, procedures and practices are transparent, fair, thorough, and effective in ensuring social justice for all. It's imperative to establish a strong foundation to identify the root causes of racial disparities in our community, best practices towards their elimination and to establish effective engagement with the community. The interns will assist in two additional capacities to reach these goals. They will contribute to the development and fulfillment of future summer/fall community listening and collaborative sessions as well as the framework to develop effective measures to engage the community through an interactive "know your rights" campaign that will be presented via OPOM's community-police collaborations.

The City has made substantial investments and continues to be committed to the work of advancing racial equity and building thriving communities as well as effective community-police relationships. The funding will allow OPOM to further accomplish these objectives.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

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## **FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Other Fund. The City Manager's Office (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the City Manager's Office has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is an advance grant.

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**Originating Business Unit Head:** Kim Neal 6120

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Expedited