

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: SHERIFF
Urgent Routine X

BOARD AGENDA # *B-6

AGENDA DATE January 23, 2001

CEO Concur with Recommendation YES gnt NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO X

SUBJECT: APPROVAL FOR THE SHERIFF TO APPLY FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL TO COLLECT TRAFFIC STOP DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

STAFF
RECOMMEN-
DATIONS:

1. AUTHORIZE THE SHERIFF TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL IN ORDER TO COLLECT TRAFFIC STOP DEMOGRAPHIC DATA.
2. APPROVAL FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ISSUE A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPTS AND EFFORTS OF THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL IN A TRAFFIC STOP DEMOGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTION GRANT PROGRAM.

FISCAL
IMPACT:

We are applying for a one-time grant of \$25,000. There is no cost associated with this grant process. No matching funds are required.

BOARD ACTION

No. 2001-43

On motion of Supervisor Caruso, Seconded by Supervisor Simon, and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

Motion:

Christine Ferraro

File No.

APPROVAL FOR THE SHERIFF TO APPLY FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA
HIGHWAY PATROL TO COLLECT TRAFFIC STOP DEMOGRAPHIC DATA
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DISCUSSION: New grant funds are available to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of demographic data collection. Governor Gray Davis is committed to the collection of racial profiling data to ascertain if racial profiling exists in California. For that purpose, the Governor appropriated \$5,000,000 in California's 2000/2001 fiscal year budget to assist local law enforcement agencies with the costs involved to initiate and maintain a data collection process. Data collected will be submitted to the California Highway Patrol for inclusion in its annual report to the Governor.

A significant amount of media and public attention has been focused recently upon the issue of racial profiling car stops allegedly being made by police officers throughout the country. Such car stops and profiling occur when a police officer initiates a traffic stop of an individual based mainly upon the race of the driver in the citizen's vehicle. The belief of many that such stops are made on a routine basis has caused obvious concern within our communities. As such, the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office, under the leadership and direction of Sheriff Les Weidman, decided to take the initiative to review the traffic stops that are being made with the County of Stanislaus. The purposes for this review are threefold and are outlined below.

- To determine if traffic stops are being made based solely on the race of the driver.
- If a racial pattern does exist, it will indicate what additional training and supervision are necessary to ensure equal treatment under the law.
- To demonstrate partnership with the community.

To accomplish this survey of Sheriff's Office vehicle stops, we are mandated to focus on six key pieces of information that are at the heart of the profiling issue. These components are outlined below:

1. Race/Ethnic background
2. Gender
3. Age (adult or minor)
4. Reasons for making the car stop
5. Disposition
6. Search

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Additionally, it is recognized that traffic profiling is a very sensitive issue. In order to be successful, the program will be simple so as not to be overly burdensome on the citizens being stopped, on the department's staff and support personnel nor on the line officers making the traffic stops. To gain support from both the community and Sheriff's Department personnel, it is important to keep the identities of both the individual citizen driver and the officer involved in the stop anonymous.

The specific methods of data collection will be described when the Department returns to the Board of Supervisors to accept the grant.

POLICY
ISSUES:

The Board must determine if application for this grant is consistent with the Board's stated priority of a safe and healthy community.

STAFFING
IMPACT:

There will be no staffing impacts associated with this request.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: January 23, 2001

No. 2001-43

On motion of Supervisor Caruso, Seconded by Supervisor Simon,
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

*B-6

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

SUPPORTING THE CONCEPTS AND EFFORTS OF
THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL
IN A TRAFFIC STOP DEMOGRAPHIC DATA
COLLECTION GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the California Highway Patrol has received grant funds to distribute monies to those participating California local law enforcement agencies to offset the costs created by traffic stop demographic data collection; and

WHEREAS, Stanislaus County is located within the geographic area where data collection is to occur; and

WHEREAS, the grant allows funds for California local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the collecting of demographic data is important in acting as a deterrent to racial profiling;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Stanislaus County expresses a strong support in the collection of traffic stop demographic data.

ATTEST: REAGAN M. WILSON, Clerk
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California,

Christine Ferraro
By: Deputy

File No.