

City of San Leandro
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SAN LEANDRO NEWS

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SAN LEANDRO TO RECEIVE ONE-TIME, TEMPORARY FEDERAL FUNDING

Yesterday, the City received notice from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder that the San Leandro Police Department will receive a one-time 2010 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant award. The estimated amount of federal funds to be awarded to SLPD over the three-year grant period is \$2,417,175.00, which will fund five police officer positions..

“I am extremely proud of this accomplishment for the City,” stated Mayor Tony Santos. “A number of us have been working on getting this funding for over two years now. Through contacts I made at the U.S. Conference of Mayors earlier this year, and working with the City’s Legislative Liaison, Len Simon, in Washington, D.C., I have been able to establish a good relationship with Bernard Melekian, Director of the Federal Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. He and I have spoken personally, and have shared correspondence on a regular basis. A City Council delegation went to Washington, D.C. the past two years during the National League of Cities conferences to lobby for this one-time funding. Together, we have clearly made a strong case for San Leandro’s public safety needs, and I am so thankful that the City’s efforts have paid off.”

In an application submitted to the COPS Hiring Program in June of this year, Police Chief Ian Willis committed to maintaining Community Policing programs in San Leandro as much as possible. Due to budget reductions over the past three years, the SLPD sworn officer staffing has fallen to 87, the lowest level since 1992.

As San Leandro is facing a fiscal crisis, every dollar helps. While this one-time grant will help the Police Department for the next three years, the City is still facing a \$3 million shortfall affecting police, fire, and all other services throughout the city. The City Council has placed Measure Z on the November 2010 ballot to address this \$3 million shortfall and prevent further cuts. Without revenue from Measure Z, potential budget cuts to address the \$3 million shortfall include:

- Eliminate seven additional police officers
- Remove one fire ladder truck and nine firefighters from service (*effective 7/1/2011*)
- Eliminate a code enforcement officer or an animal control officer
- Further reduce street maintenance and pothole repairs
- Close small library branches (*effective 7/1/2011*)
- Eliminate most youth and senior recreation programs

“As the Chief of Police, it is my job to do everything I can to protect the people of San Leandro,” said Chief Willis. “I am very happy to have secured some help from the Federal Government during these difficult times, but it isn’t enough. It only helps us with five officers when we need to support seven positions at least. With funding from both this one-time grant and Measure Z, we can prevent further cuts to our department.”

City Manager Steve Hollister stated, “This is great news; we are delighted that our City won these scarce grant funds after an extensive application process involving scores of other cities across the country. It is clear that our City has public safety funding needs that simply won’t go away.”

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