

# REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From the City Manager

May 22, 2006

## **Subject**

Funding of the Downtown Law Enforcement/Parking Management Plan

## **Recommendation**

City Council approves funding the plan through the use of funds derived from the parking fund.

## **Background**

On March 27, 2006 City Council approved the hiring of three police officers, three part time parking enforcement officers, overtime funds, as well as \$20,000 in video surveillance equipment to provide enhanced police services to support the revitalization of downtown. The funding origin for the total annual staffing cost of \$569,420 as well as the expense of the surveillance equipment was not determined at that meeting. It is recommended the monies be obtained from the parking enterprise fund.

One of the City's objectives is to provide a safe environment for visitors to the revitalized downtown. Visitors should feel safe when parking their vehicles and confident that the vehicles and personal property will be secure while in the downtown area. The Council acknowledged and supported this objective when it approved ordinance no. 2287 that amended Chapter 20 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic) to the municipal code in August 2005, which among other matters provided in Section 20.121 that downtown meter zone revenues could be used for "all expenses for the control of traffic (including pedestrian and vehicle safety, comfort, and convenience) which may be affected by the parking of vehicles in the downtown meter zone.."

It is important to remember that the downtown parking plan is based on the concept of "Park Once and Walk." In order for people to feel safe walking in the area it's important to have officers visible throughout the downtown area and that these officers deter crimes such as vehicle theft and vandalism, gang activity and other disruptive criminal behavior.

With the adoption of the foregoing amendment to the municipal code the Council also expressed a goal of "achieving a 15% vacancy rate on each block." A critical element of achieving this goal will be the enforcement of parking regulations by the police department.

## **Alternatives**

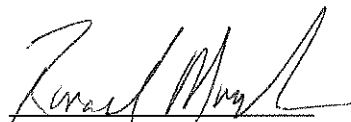
If the Council elects not to charge these additional costs to the parking enterprise fund, these expenditures, or a portion of them, may be charged to the City's general fund. Thus far, no provision has been made to employ monies from the general fund to support the law enforcement/parking management plan.

**Fiscal Impact**

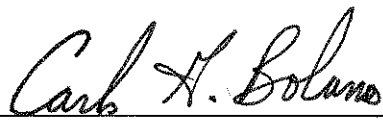
The annual cost of three additional police officer positions assigned to work downtown on a full time basis Friday Saturday and Sunday is \$450,000. Staffing the detail during the weekdays on an overtime basis as required is expected not to exceed \$65,000. The combined cost is \$515,000. Adding three parking enforcement officers will increase our casual labor costs by \$54,420 each year. The total annual staffing cost of the proposed policing plan is \$569,420. The precise cost of a video surveillance system has not been determined but will not exceed \$20,000. The combined cost of staffing and equipment is \$589,420. If approved, it may take as long a twelve months to recruit hire and train the three additional officers. The suggested staffing levels will be maintained with overtime as necessary until the positions are filled. Overtime costs will clearly not exceed the expense of the proposed full time positions, but the precise costs will vary depending on the hire dates of the new employees.

Staff recommends that the costs of the downtown law enforcement plan be budgeted in and charged to the parking enterprise fund. As provided for by the municipal code, these costs are eligible to be charged to the parking enterprise fund. Based upon the current parking enterprise fund financial projections for FY2006/07 there will be sufficient revenues generated by the parking fees to support these costs.

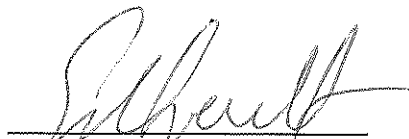
Should Council concur with staff's recommended funding plan the costs associated with the downtown law enforcement plan will be included in the parking enterprise fund in the recommended FY2006/07 and FY2007/08 budgets that will be presented to Council in June of this year.



Ronald Matuszak  
Police Captain



Carlos G. Bolanos  
Police Chief



Ed Everett  
City Manager