



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #393

Community Policing Grant Program (Justice -- General Agency Provisions)

[LFB 2013-15 Budget Summary: Page 273, #6]

CURRENT LAW

The community policing grant program provides an annual grant of \$222,700 GPR to the City of Milwaukee for activities related to decentralized law enforcement and crime prevention in targeted neighborhoods that suffer from high levels of violent and drug-related crime.

GOVERNOR

Delete the community policing grant program and its associated annual funding of \$222,700 GPR.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The provisions of 1993 Wisconsin Act 193 created the community policing grant program under the Department of Justice (DOJ). Under Act 193, the community policing grant program was provided \$500,000 GPR in 1993-94 in a biennial appropriation. Since funding for the program was only budgeted in the first year of the biennial appropriation, there was no base year funding to carry forward into the next biennium. The program was not provided additional funding again until the 2005-06 state fiscal year.

2. In materials submitted to the Joint Committee on Finance for a June 21, 2006 meeting under s. 13.10, the Department of Administration (DOA) requested additional law enforcement resources for the City of Milwaukee. The administration indicated that, "[o]ver this past Memorial Day weekend, the state witnessed significantly heightened incidence of violent crimes in the [C]ity of Milwaukee with 28 separate shootings in the city, resulting in four fatalities and 24 individuals wounded." The administration went on to indicate that, "[s]afeguarding

Wisconsin's citizens, businesses and visitors is paramount to a high quality of life and a prosperous economy. Milwaukee, as the state's largest city, faces unique challenges. Recent events have demonstrated that additional law enforcement resources are necessary to protect families and business[es] in Milwaukee's neighborhoods and parks." In its request, DOA sought an additional \$1,000,000 GPR in funding from the Joint Committee on Finance in 2005-06, to support additional City of Milwaukee police overtime costs. While DOA originally sought to have the funding provided to OJA, the Joint Committee on Finance provided \$750,000 GPR in 2005-06, to DOJ's community policing grant program to provide additional funding to the City of Milwaukee for police overtime costs.

3. In the Governor's 2007-09 biennial budget, the Governor requested the creation of a new GPR annual appropriation for law enforcement officer supplement grants to 1st class cities under OJA. Under the budget bill, as introduced, this appropriation would have been provided \$750,000 annually. The Office would have been required to provide grants from the appropriation to the City of Milwaukee to employ additional uniformed law enforcement officers. For each year that the city received a grant, it would have been required to provide matching funds of at least 25% of the amount of the grant.

4. The adopted 2007-09 biennial budget deleted this provision. Instead, the 2007-09 biennial budget provided base funding of \$250,000 GPR annually to the existing community policing grant program under DOJ to provide grants to the City of Milwaukee for activities related to decentralized law enforcement and crime prevention in targeted neighborhoods that suffer from high levels of violent and drug-related crime.

5. After subsequent budget reductions, the 2012-13 base funding for the community policing grant program is \$222,700 GPR. Under AB 40, as introduced, the Governor recommends deleting the program and its associated base funding of \$222,700 GPR annually. The administration indicates that, "The Governor's budget recommended deleting the program because it is a non-competitive grant/earmark. It does not fit with the Department of Justice's mission: There is no similar funding available to other communities, it is not a statewide criminal justice program, nor a pilot program designed to inform local law enforcement's policing decisions." For these reasons the Committee could elect to delete the community policing grant program. [Alternative 1]

6. The City of Milwaukee indicates that if the Legislature maintains the community policing grant program, that it will utilize this funding to expand the City's Shot Spotter system. The Shot Spotter system "is a system of sensors located throughout the city based on data of violent crime. The sensors detect gunshot like sounds and filter the sounds to determine if it is a gunshot or other noise, such as car backfire. It uses GPS pinging technology to triangulate the location of the gunshot and sends this information to MPD [Milwaukee Police Department] communications and squad cars within seconds. It can provide coordinates or addresses."

7. The Chief of Police for the City of Milwaukee indicates that, "The Shot Spotter system is used to pinpoint the location of gunshots within the City. It has been an effective tool in our effort to reduce crime, resulting in the prosecution of gun offenses and the prevention of further violence. The funding from this grant will allow the City to expand the system to an additional four square miles where gun violence and criminal activity is most prevalent. During 2011, 1,644

gunshots were identified by Shot Spotter and 2,424 during 2012, thanks to other grant funding that permitted an additional mile of system coverage."

8. The community policing grant program provides law enforcement funding only to the City of Milwaukee. As the largest urban center in the state, however, it could be argued that the City has unique law enforcement challenges that justify dedicated law enforcement funding. In order to provide support to the City of Milwaukee Police Department to address its unique challenges and responsibilities, and in order to permit it to expand the Shot Spotter system, the Committee could delete the provision and maintain the community policing grant program. [Alternative 2]

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to delete the community policing grant program and its associated annual funding of \$222,700 GPR.

2. Delete provision. Under this alternative, the community policing grant program and its associated annual funding of \$222,700 GPR would be retained under the Department of Justice.

ALT 2	Change to Bill Funding
GPR	\$445,400

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