



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

Phone: 520-791-4852

Fax: 520-791-4433

270 S. Stone Avenue

Tucson, Arizona 85701-1917

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/police>

On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com

Media Release



Roberto A. Villaseñor

Chief of Police

Date: September 29, 2011

Contact: Sgt. Matt Ronstadt

TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDED 2011 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COPS GRANT

The Tucson Police Department is pleased to announce that we have been selected to receive \$6.1 million dollars from the 2011 Department of Justice COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program) grant. This grant funding will provide for 100% coverage of the entry-level salaries and benefits for 25 police officers for thirty-six months.

This grant was awarded upon the completion of an extremely competitive application and review process. Award criteria were based on several factors, including crime rates and budgetary changes. A total of 2712 agencies nationwide applied for the grant, with only 238 agencies being awarded funding. Only three other Arizona cities were awarded funding under this grant, with those three cities receiving funding to hire a combined total of 8 officers. In fact, the Tucson Police Department tied with 13 other agencies across the country in receiving the highest number of officers under this grant.

The Tucson Police Department is constantly striving to do our part to ensure that Tucson remains a safe and vibrant community. With the recent budget woes facing the City of Tucson and the Department, we have had to make difficult decisions and cut programs that the community deemed valuable in order to satisfy our core mission of providing public safety. These measures were immediately necessary to enable us to continue to respond to 911 calls for emergency service. The deferred cost of these actions, however, is that crime rates will eventually increase due to the loss of these proactive crime prevention efforts, unless we find innovative ways such as federal funding to compensate for these losses.

This grant award, and the 25 new officers that it will fund, are the result of our ongoing efforts to identify and compete for the limited available federal funds that will help the Department return to an acceptable staffing level. The Department estimates that the hiring process for officers under this grant will begin early in the next fiscal year, sometime after July 1, 2012.

This grant award provides for three years of funding, with the requirement that the Department absorb the cost of these positions into its operating budget at the conclusion of the grant period, and maintain these positions for at least twelve months. Because of this requirement, City

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

Finance will be examining projected financial obligations for future years, as well as the expected economic recovery that will determine our financial stability in order to accomplish this mandate. The City is currently awaiting the Final Financial Memorandum from the COPs Office that will spell out all terms of the grant. Upon receipt of that memorandum, there is a ninety-day window in which to formally accept the grant.

The below link includes details of the awards to each recipient city, broken down by state.

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2011AwardDocs/CSPP-SOS-CHP/2011CHProgramAwardList.pdf>

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