



2013 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant- Application Narrative

Applicant name: Town of Stratford

Title of Project:

Amount of Grant: \$18,845

Public Review Period: June 12th-July 12th, 2013

Program Description

Need:

The Town of Stratford has seen a significant increase in drug and gang-related violent crime over the past three years. The Unit's work with the regional Urban Violence Task Force has shed light on several issues requiring specific attention and additional surveillance. Stratford's proximity to, and shared border with, the City of Bridgeport have led to an increase in gang activity in Stratford's South End community. There has also been an increase in drug trafficking in town, as well as an incident of arson at a Stratford residence where gang affiliation is strongly suspected.

SPD's proposed project will continue a summer 2012 surveillance initiative funded by JAG passthrough funds from the State of Connecticut and conducted by the SPD, with special emphasis on the South End community, known drug corridors, and anywhere where Stratford borders with Bridgeport. The work conducted last summer provided invaluable intelligence to the Unit and to our Regional Urban Violence Task Force on violent/gang criminal activity and led to an increase in arrests and a significant decrease in gang and drug-related violence in the target communities. JAG funds will allow SPD to continue this work and keep violence down.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal: Reduce violent/gang related and drug related crime in Stratford by increasing the Stratford Police Department's investigative capacity.

Objective: Continue Stratford's Special Operations Team that will provide the Department with extra surveillance capacity during the first year of the grant period. This SOT will provide 16 hours per week over 20 weeks of extra surveillance and presence in high-activity areas of Town, as informed by our internal intelligence and that provided to us by our regional partners on the Urban Violence Task Force, State Police, and other sources. Funds will support the deployment of two teams (two officers each) during high-activity months.

Activities: Special Operations Team will conduct extra surveillance of gang and drug related violent crime "hot spots" as informed by internal and Task Force intelligence. Two teams of 2 officers per team will conduct surveillance for approximately 16 hours/week during the grant period. The schedule of surveillance activities will be determined based on need, but SPD anticipates that surveillance will occur Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as determined by the Head of the Narcotics and Vice Unit. This additional surveillance will better inform the SPD of gang and drug related activity, allow for better and more frequent response from the SPD, and allow us to conduct preventive activities, especially with youth who may be susceptible to gang influence during the months they are out of school.

Review Narrative

2013 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Formula Program-Local Solicitation

Evaluation of Impact: Activities will be monitored by developing a specific activity sheet that will track arrests, intelligence tracking/contacts, gang affiliation, types of narcotics arrests, information on specific violations and will use Crime Reports to track and analyze. As each team goes out, they will keep a record of each period of enforcement/block of time. Weekly check-ins will be held to review data and discuss trends and make changes in surveillance activities. We anticipate seeing a spike in violations and arrests during the grant period due to our increased efforts, and a long-term reduction in assaults, larceny and other violent crime. Our efforts will also increase our intelligence on other gang members that have not been identified. We also predict a reduction in gang recruitment & influence on youth who are out of school.

Budget

- Personnel Overtime: Blended hourly rate of \$52/hr x approx. 362 hrs during the grant period= \$18,845.00