

City of Cincinnati



Leslie Ghiz

Greg Harris

Members of Cincinnati City Council

200900677

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MOTION

WE MOVE that the \$1,306,822 Byrne Justice Assistance Formula Program Grant (JAG) Spending Plan modified in the following manner:

1. That \$462,000 be used to lease 75 electronic monitoring units (EMUs) with GPS capabilities. The units should be leased in tandem with the County's current lease agreement. Through a Memorandum of Understanding or similar agreement, the units should be used on **City offenders only** for the duration of 30 months. The MOU should also state that the payment be made only if the County Sheriff can provide officers to adequately monitor the new units.
2. That \$315,659 be used to hire two additional Assistant City Solicitors for two years to help combat blight and nuisance issues in Police Districts 3 and 4, the communities with the highest level of these issues. The work of these Assistant City Solicitors will model the work of the "Zone Initiative Team" in Columbus, which assigns an attorney to work with residents in a specific district to address quality of life issues affecting the community and to address those issues through criminal and civil litigation. The administration will report back to Council with the specifics on how this program will be designed.
3. That the Administration re-prioritize their requests for the remaining \$529,163.

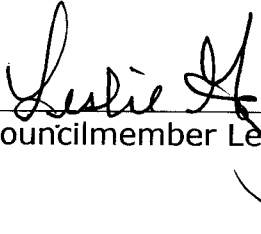
STATEMENT

The JAG formula grant recently awarded for the City represents a unique opportunity to maximize our public safety efforts. With these precious additional public safety funds, our task in allocating them is two-fold: 1) to provide the Administration the necessary resources to combat crime and focus on "broken-window" quality of life issues and 2) to ensure that when criminals are arrested, they are not released immediately back on our streets. The lack of jail space due to the closure of the Queensgate facility has created the potential for a public safety crisis for our City and great frustration for our Police Department. Statistics provided by the Municipal Court are alarming. From March 16-March 31 of this year:

- 19 criminals were released early from their original sentence due to jail overcrowding;
- 787 individuals newly arrested on a charge were processed through the intake area, given their arraignment court date and released from the Justice Center; and

- 52 criminals were sentenced to jail time by a Judge and given a date in the future (normally 90 days) to report back to serve that sentence.¹

In addition, the foreclosure crisis has accelerated issues of blight--conditions directly attributable to our city and nation's economic downturn. This motion will utilize stimulus resources to address nuisance property issues that are having an increased adverse impact on Cincinnati neighborhoods.



Councilmember Leslie Ghiz



Councilmember Greg Harris

¹ Information Provided by the Hamilton County Municipal Court Records Office