



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Rich Olson, City Manager

Date: November 22, 2017

Subj: Consideration – Authorize Application for Walmart Community Support Grant

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department is currently seeking grant opportunities to increase the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the department. The “Wal-Mart Community Grant Program” is offering up to \$2,500 in grant funding to be used for organizations striving to improve their community. The Elizabeth City Police Department wishes to apply for funding in the amount of \$2,500, which would be used towards the purchase a Pro-Tektor interactive kiosk machine, along with crime prevention materials and computer software. The Elizabeth City Police Department received funding in June 2017 in the amount of \$2,500 from the Wal-Mart Community Grant Program; and the department is still seeking additional funding to purchase the kiosk machine. By applying for the new FY 2018 grant, the department is hopeful to move forward with the purchase of the needed equipment. There are no matching funds required for this particular grant and the grant application site is now open for submissions, which will continue into early 2018.

ANALYSIS:

The “Wal-Mart Community Grant Program” provides organizations with resources to better serve their communities. Its goal is to educate citizens and give back to the community; and this is also a goal of the Elizabeth City Police Department’s Community Resources Unit. In keeping with this shared concept, the Elizabeth City Police Department feels that applying for this community grant would be a very cost effective way of obtaining crime prevention equipment, materials, and software in service to our citizens. If approved for grant funding, the department would like to purchase an interactive kiosk and place in the Wal-Mart store in Elizabeth City. The cost of the kiosk is approximately \$4,500. An interactive kiosk is a computer terminal featuring specialized hardware and software that provides access to information and applications for communication and public announcements/education. The Police Department would utilize the kiosk to distribute crime bulletins in a timely manner, as well as display community events. Law enforcement studies have shown that the distribution of community safety literature serves three purposes: it increases the community’s awareness of crime and specific criminal activity; it provides suggestions/activities to reduce

or remove the opportunity for crime; and it can be used to build a community safety presence or to forge consensus among groups or interests as to how to approach a particular crime problem. There is no budget impact to the City of Elizabeth City, either in current FY 2017-2018 or upcoming FY 2018-2019 for application of this particular grant.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their November 22, 2017 meeting. Upon motion made by Councilman Horton, seconded by Councilman Donnelly, the Committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the submission of a grant application to the "Wal-Mart Community Grant Program" for FY 2018 in the amount of \$2,500; and to utilize grant funding for the purchase of an interactive kiosk machine.