



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr. Chief of Police

Date: February 8, 2019

Subject: Consideration – Authorize Application to National PAL Mentoring Grant for FY2019

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department continues to seek grant funding opportunities through outside sources including federal, state, local, and private entities for the purpose of enhancing operations and furthering the department's mission of the pursuit of excellence. For the past two fiscal years, the Police Department has been a sub-grant recipient of the National PAL Mentoring Grant, which is provided through the US Department of Justice. This grant opportunity allows local PAL Chapters to engage in positive youth development activities and to provide greater opportunities for individual/group mentoring and youth academic achievement. The mission of this program is to increase participating youth's understanding of personal, community, and interpersonal safety, and increase their perception of social support.

The National PAL Mentoring Grant for 2018-2019 was completed on December 31, 2018; due to the government shutdown, the National PAL Program was uncertain when the new solicitation/announcement would take place. On February 6, 2019, an e-mail communication advised that the FY2019-2020 PAL Mentoring Grant had been approved for funding; the deadline to submit an application is February 22, 2019. Staff is seeking to make application for this grant to continue service by funding an additional PAL employee to enhance our existing PAL program with additional sports and enrichment programs, as we have the last two year.

ANALYSIS:

With the \$18,000 in grant funding in 2017, and the \$18,900 in 2018, staff was able to serve 20 local youth through organized enrichment activities. Both local and out-of-town educational trips provided great opportunities for our local youth to experience. With the success of the program, the Elizabeth City Police Department is seeking to continue to the program in FY2019-2020, in service to the youth of this community. If

awarded grant funding, staff would like to expand the program from 20 youth to 30; which would require seeking \$27,000 in grant funding. The budget for the \$27,000 will include mandatory training at the National PAL Conference, salary for the PAL employee to work up to 20 hours per week, and funding for children to participate in life enrichment/educational activities, including local and outside trips.

The PAL Mentoring Program's goal is improve outcomes, such as improved academic performance and reduced school drop-out rates for at-risk, high-risk, or underserved youth, and reduce negative outcomes, including juvenile delinquency and gang participation, through mentoring. To achieve this goal, program objectives focus on supporting qualified programs to provide quality mentoring services tailored to the needs of the identified at-risk, high-risk, or underserved youth target population; and to align grantees' mentoring programs with research and evidence on effective mentoring practices.

Given the success of the last two applications, staff is optimistic that a new grant award for FY2019-FY2020 is very likely. There is no match for this grant and therefore, no budget impact.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their February 7, 2019 meeting. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Young, seconded by Councilwoman Parker, the Committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the Elizabeth City Police Department to apply for the 2019 National PAL Mentoring Grant for \$27,000 to continue service to the youth of this community.