To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

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

Date: February 22, 2019

Subject: Consideration – Authorize Application to the 2019 Wal-Mart Community Grant Program

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department is currently seeking grant opportunities to increase the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the department. The 2019 Wal-Mart Community Grant is offering up to $5,000 in grant funding to be used for organizations striving to improve their community. The Elizabeth City Police Department wishes to apply for funding, which will be used towards the purchase of a Carolina Cooker/Grill, Kettle Popper Machine, Snow Cone Maker, tables, chairs, and crime prevention materials for use by the Community Resources Unit. The grant application period opened on February 1, 2019 and does not close until December 31, 2019; however, it is a first-come, first-serve grant, so earlier application increases the likelihood of award. No matching funds are required for this grant.

ANALYSIS:

Studies have shown that hosting community events serves to increase the community’s awareness of crime and specific criminal activity; provides suggestions/activities to reduce or remove the opportunity for crime; and 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. The Wal-Mart Community Grant Program provides organizations with resources to serve their communities; its goal is to educate citizens and give back to the community. This community grant serves as a cost effective way of obtaining crime prevention equipment, materials, and software in service to our citizens. If approved for grant funding in the full amount, the department would like to purchase a Carolina Cooker Grill, Kettle Popper Machine, Snow Cone Maker, and tables and chairs to be used to host community cook-outs, National Night Out Against Crime, Back-to-School Bash, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Block Party, and other community functions held throughout the calendar year. The estimated cost for the items is $3,500; if awarded, the department would also use the remaining $1,500 for printed
crime prevention materials to be used by the Community Resources Unit in service to the public.

**FINANCIAL:**

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their February 21, 2019 meeting. Upon motion made by Councilwoman Young, seconded by Councilwoman Hummer, 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 in the full amount of $5,000 for the Elizabeth City Police Department’s Community Resources Unit.