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## COUNTY OF ERIE

**CHRIS COLLINS**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 14, 2011

The Honorable  
Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin St. – Fourth Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Central Police Services – Fiscal Year 2010 Paul Coverdell Firearms Grant Program**

Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to enter into a contract with the National Institute of Justice to accept grant funding in the amount of \$123,712.

The funds will allow the CPS Forensic Laboratory to increase its capacity to analyze firearms related cases by hiring a qualified firearms examiner consultant, maintain the existing part-time Firearms Examiner position, implement improvements in the laboratory information management system, replace outdated computers and to obtain necessary continuing education training.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Central Police Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Collins", is written over a horizontal line.

CHRIS COLLINS  
Erie County Executive

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Central Police Services  
**Re:** Fiscal Year 2010 Paul Coverdell Firearms Grant  
**Date:** January 14, 2011

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### **SUMMARY**

The attached resolution requests authorization to enter into contract with the National Institute of Justice to accept new grant funding in the amount \$123,712.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be no impact on County funds. The grant is 100% funded by the National Institute of Justice.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Erie County CPS Forensic Laboratory has a substantial backlog of firearms related cases in need of analysis. This initiative is intended to reduce this backlog and to enhance the capacity of the laboratory to promptly analyze items of evidence submitted from these types of investigations. The funding will also allow improvements to the existing laboratory information management system and provide funds for required continuing education.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Erie County CPS Forensic Laboratory processes a large number of firearms related evidence for the law enforcement agencies of Erie County. In order to further increase the analytical capabilities of the Firearms Section, it is necessary to hire an experienced firearms examiner consultant and to also perform these analyses using overtime. This grant also provides full funding for the existing part-time Firearms Examiner position. Additionally, the laboratory is in need of updating existing computers and management software that is used by the Firearms Section and the Chemistry Section.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve this request would prevent the Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory from completing the analysis of backlogged firearms cases. The laboratory will also lose the services of the part-time Firearms Examiner which was funded by a previous grant. This would result in a continuing increase in the number of backlogged firearms cases and also impede the prosecution of these cases. Failure to update outdated computers and management software will result in a decrease in productivity for both the Firearms Section and the Chemistry Section. Without the approval of the proposed resolution, Erie County will be unable to accept this grant funding.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Central Police Services will work with the Division of Budget and Management to implement this request.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
CENTRAL POLICE SERVICES

RE: Fiscal Year 2010  
Paul Coverdell Firearms Grant

WHEREAS, the Erie County Central Police Services Forensic Lab has been awarded a 2010 Paul Coverdell Grant to be administered by the National Institute of Justice; and

WHEREAS, said funds will enable the Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory to analyze backlogged firearms cases and improve its operation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided for the County Executive to enter into a contract and accept funding in the amount of \$123,712 with the National Institute of Justice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to establish the grant in the budget of the Department of Central Police Services as follows:

Grant Fund SAP # 165FY10COVFIRE1011  
Central Police Services  
10/01/2010 to 09/30/2011

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Acct. 414000 Federal Aid	\$123,712
 <u>Appropriation</u>	 <u>Increase</u>
Account 500010 Part-Time Wages	\$19,422
Account 501000 Overtime	\$36,054
Account 502000 Fringe Benefits	\$ 7,653
Account 510100 Travel	\$ 3,412
Account 516020 Professional Services Contracts	\$36,993
Account 561410 Lab & Tech Equipment	<u>\$20,178</u>
 Total Appropriation	 \$123,712

and be it further,

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to contract with Mark Shaw, 5519 Hallmark Lane, Lockport, New York, 14094 a qualified firearms examiner consultant, in the amount of \$36,993 (\$28.50 per hour) to provide forensic laboratory testing services in firearms related cases, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with Federal-approved funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, the Office of the Comptroller and the Department of Central Police Services, c/o Kathy Gumulak, 45 Elm Street, Buffalo, NY 14203.