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SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

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April 26, 2021

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Crime Stoppers WNY & FAA Pilot Certification Training – Transfer Seized Asset Funds

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization to allow the Erie County Sheriff's Office to transfer funds from the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account to Crime Stoppers WNY's "Help Stop The Violence" initiative and pay for Federal Aviation Administration required commercial pilot rating for pilots who fly law enforcement missions.

Representatives from the Sheriff's Office will be available to answer any questions.

Very truly yours,

TIMOTHY B. HOWARD
SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

Attachments

ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Sheriff's Office
Re: Crime Stoppers WNY & FAA Pilot Certification Training – Transfer Seized Asset Funds
Date: April 15, 2021

Summary of Recommended Action

The Legislature needs to approve the transfer of seized asset funds to Crime Stoppers WNY and to pay for the required FAA pilot certification and travel expenses.

Fiscal Implications of Proposal

This resolution will not have any impact on the 2021 County Budget.

Reasons for Recommendation

The area has seen an increase in gun-related violence over the past year, and Crime Stoppers WNY continues to encourage citizens to come forward with information about the violence with rewards.

The organization's "Help Stop the Violence" initiative is designed to increase crime-solving rates by encouraging community engagement. Crime Stoppers WNY regularly offers and pays rewards for information leading to the arrests of subjects involved in violent acts.

The Sheriff's Office has been a long supporter of Crime Stoppers and seeks to transfer \$10,000.00 to support Crime Stoppers WNY and its mission for safer streets.

The Erie County Sheriff's Office also seeks to pay for required pilot training. The agency has two licensed pilots for Air-1, and the pilots need to complete the required Federal Aviation Administration certification.

Under Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR §61.133), a commercial pilot rating is required for missions flown in support of law enforcement. Obtaining this certification and rating ensures proper rating for the Sheriff's pilots.

Additional Recurrency and Proficiency training is sought. During this pilot training course, the pilots perform emergency flight procedures in simulated scenarios. These training scenarios include full touch-down autorotation, simulated engine failure, hydraulic failure, and simulated tail rotor malfunctions.

The ECSO is requesting authorization to transfer \$127,000.00 from the seized asset account to support Crime Stopper WNY and pilot certification.

As of April 15, the balance of the account is \$536,660.00.

Consequences of Negative Action

Failure to approve this request will prevent the Sheriff's Office from utilizing seized assets to fulfill the FAA requirement and could keep Air-1 grounded in times of emergency. It would also halt needed funding for Crime Stopper WNY.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, County Comptroller, Division of Budget and Finance, Division of Purchasing, and the Sheriff's Office for implementation.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Re: Crime Stoppers WNY & FAA Pilot Certification Training – Transfer Seized Asset Funds

WHEREAS, the area has seen an increase in gun-related violence over the past year, and Crime Stoppers WNY continues to encourage citizens to come forward with information about the violence with rewards; and

WHEREAS, the organization's "Help Stop The Violence" initiative is designed to increase crime-solving rates by encouraging community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Crime Stoppers WNY regularly offers and pays rewards for information leading to the arrests of subjects involved in violent acts; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has been a long supporter of Crime Stoppers and is seeking to transfer \$10,000.00 to support Crime Stoppers WNY and its mission for safer streets; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office has two licensed pilots for Air-1; and

WHEREAS, under Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR §61.133), a commercial pilot rating is required for missions flown in support of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, a Commercial Pilot Certificate is a method of ensuring that law enforcement pilots are appropriately rated for the missions they perform; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has two licensed that need to fulfill this FAA requirement; and

WHEREAS, the pilots also will complete Recurrency and Proficiency training; and

WHEREAS, this training complies with FAA Federal Aviation Regulation §61.56; and

WHEREAS, during this pilot training course, the pilots perform emergency flight procedures in simulated scenarios, which include full touch-down autorotation, simulated engine failure, hydraulic failure, and simulated tail rotor malfunctions; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office is utilizing seized assets to certify two Deputies to the FAA requirement and complete Recurrency and Proficiency, as well as for Crime Stoppers WNY; and

WHEREAS, the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account balance as of April 26, 2021, is \$536,660.00; and

WHEREAS, these initiatives will not have any fiscal impact on the 2021 County Budget;
and

WHEREAS, the items requested meet the U.S Justice and Treasury department's guidelines outlined in the July 2018 Guide to Equitable Sharing. Each year, the Erie County Sheriff's Office recertifies with the departments to maintain its program eligibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature authorizes the Erie County Sheriff's Office and Division of Budget and Management to transfer \$10,000.00 from the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account #421550 to account #516410; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature authorizes the Erie County Sheriff's Office and Division of Budget and Management to transfer \$117,000.00 from the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account #421550 to account #510100 – Out of Area Travel:

**ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Fund Center 11510**

Sheriff – SAFS Funded Program

REVENUE

421550 Forfeiture Crime Proceeds

DECREASE

\$ 127,000.00

APPROPRIATION

510100 Out of Area Travel
516010 Contractual Payments
 Total Revenue

INCREASE

\$ 117,000.00
\$ 10,000.00
\$ 127,000.00

; and be it further

RESOLVED, the designated seized asset fund expenditures meet the U.S Justice and Treasury department's guidelines outlined in the July 2018 Guide to Equitable Sharing; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Division of Budget and Management is authorized to make any technical adjustments necessary to effectuate this acquisition should there be any unforeseen issues; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Sheriff's Office and the Division of Budget and Management are authorized to have any unused funding either remain in the designated account or returned to the Asset Forfeiture Trust Account; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Comptroller's Office is hereby authorized to release the designated funds and make any payments necessary to complete the acquisition of the vehicle following the bidding process; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, County Comptroller, Division of Budget and Finance, Division of Purchasing, and the Sheriff's Office for implementation.