



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** May 22, 2012

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Investigative Division, Police Department

**SUBJECT:** Appropriation Of Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds To The Investigative Division For Radio Purchase

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council appropriate \$11,000 in Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds in the Police Asset Forfeiture Fund from available reserves for purchase of radios to be installed in surveillance vehicles.

### **DISCUSSION:**

According to the California Attorney General's Annual Report on Asset Forfeiture, "The goal of asset forfeiture is to remove the profits from those that benefit from the illegal drug trade." The report goes on to provide that the law also permits law enforcement agencies to use the proceeds of forfeited funds to purchase safe, more effective equipment that they otherwise could not afford.

The detectives assigned to the Investigative Division use surveillance vehicles on a daily basis. These vehicles are used to conduct covert surveillance on criminal suspects who deal narcotics or to apprehend, without the use of force, criminal suspects who have committed violent crimes against the citizens in our community. Good communication between Detectives on surveillance is paramount in order to arrest a criminal suspect without the use of force and to ensure the public is protected from harm during these covert, often dangerous operations.

The Investigative Division currently maintains a fleet of five surveillance vehicles. Currently detectives communicate with each other using handheld portable radios. Handheld portable radios have a short battery life and only operate effectively over short, line of sight distances. Surveillances are conducted over broad areas within the City and detectives frequently travel outside the City of Santa Barbara into surrounding jurisdictions. Hard mounted radios provide greater power for stronger communication over greater distances. Hard mounted radios are needed in all five surveillance vehicles to enhance communications and to provide a safer and higher level of service to the public.

Council Agenda Report  
Appropriation Of Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds To The Investigative Division For Radio  
Purchase  
May 22, 2012  
Page 2

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The City's General Fund Budget is not affected by this request. Federally forfeited funds are accounted for in a separate Special Revenue Fund.

**PREPARED BY:** Alex Altavilla, Police Captain

**SUBMITTED BY:** Camerino Sanchez, Chief of Police

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office