

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: December 20, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT POTENTIALLY PURCHASING HANDHELD NARCOTICS ANALYZERS TO TEST SEIZED CONTRABAND AND PROTECT MIAMI BEACH POLICE OFFICERS FROM POSSIBLE EXPOSURE.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends allocating funding in the amount of \$27,000 to cover the gap for the purchase of three (3) additional handheld narcotics analyzers.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the October 30, 2024 City Commission Meeting, at the request of Mayor Steven Meiner and later co-sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez, the Mayor and City Commission approved a referral (C4 U) to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC") to discuss the police department potentially purchasing handheld narcotics analyzers to test seized contraband and protect Miami Beach police officers from possible exposure.

ANALYSIS

Throughout the course of their duty, Miami Beach police officers are increasingly encountering dangerous drugs primarily due to the proliferation of the fentanyl epidemic, its analogues and synthetic opioids. This presents great danger to the health and safety of the officers and other employees who may come in contact with these substances in their course of employment.

To better equip the Department to handle and identify narcotics more safely, the Administration purchased one (1) handheld narcotics analyzer that is currently in use in the Police Department's Strategic Investigations Section. The current cost of each unit ranges between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

The Administration has applied for and been awarded the 2023 Local Solicitation from the Bureau of Justice Assistance's *Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program* (JAG Grant) in the amount of \$63,000 for the specific purchase of three (3) additional handheld narcotics analyzers. Through this acquisition, the Administration will expand the availability of the technology and not only better safeguard officers and employees from potential exposure to these substances but will also properly charge violators with accurate and more appropriate criminal charges.

Its important to note that results provided by the analyzers are presumptive in nature and will still require a confirmatory test by an accredited laboratory.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The expected fiscal impact is approximately **\$27,000** to cover the funding gap between the awarded grant and the expected cost of three (3) handheld narcotics analyzers.

CONCLUSION

To protect City employees who may encounter dangerous drugs while on duty, the Administration recommends the purchase and deployment of three (3) additional handheld narcotics analyzers. Partial funding has been secured through a federal grant opportunity. The difference in cost is being requested via a general fund appropriation.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Police

Sponsor(s)

Mayor Steven Meiner

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Condensed Title

Potential Purchase of Handheld Narcotics Analyzers.