

**MEETING DATE:** April 13, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM:** D

**TO:** BSCC Chair and Members

**FROM:** Ricardo Goodridge, Deputy Director, [ricardo.goodridge@bscc.ca.gov](mailto:ricardo.goodridge@bscc.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Organized Retail Theft Prevention and Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Programs, Request for Proposal and Scoring Panel: **Requesting Approval**

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### Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval to release the Request for Proposals for the Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program, the Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program, and to convene a Scoring Panel to read, rate, and make funding recommendations to the Board for both grant programs.

### Background

The Budget Act of 2022 (Senate Bill 154, Chapter 43, Statutes of 2022) established the Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program (D-1) and the Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program (Assembly Bill 178, Chapter 45, Statutes of 2022) (D-2). According to the Budget Act, funding for the Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program shall be for competitive grants for city police, county sheriffs' departments and probation departments. Grant funds shall be used to support local law enforcement agencies in preventing and responding to organized retail theft, motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft, or cargo theft. The BSCC anticipates that \$242,250,000 will be available competitively across three fiscal years to implement the grant program, subject to future appropriations.

The Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program shall be available for competitive grants for district attorneys for the purpose of addressing increased levels of retail theft property crime using a vertical prosecution model. The BSCC anticipates that \$28,500,000 will be available competitively across three fiscal years to implement the grant program, subject to future appropriations.

On July 25, 2022, the Board approved a staff recommendation to appoint a Chair and establish an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to develop a Request for Proposals, authorized staff to work with the ESC Chair to establish a diverse ESC with relevant subject-matter expertise, and authorized the ESC Chair to oversee the grant-development process (D-3).

The ESC recruitment process began after the July 2022 Board meeting. Notices were posted on the BSCC website, shared through email listservs, and communicated to county partners. A small number of individuals volunteered to serve on the ESC, but not enough interest was generated to convene an ESC that could read and rate all proposals that would likely be submitted.

To ensure the timely release of funds to the field, staff consulted with the ESC Chair and subject-matter experts to draft an Organized Retail Theft Grant Program RFP (D-4) and an Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program RFP (D-5). Key components of each RFP are described below:

#### Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program

- Eligible applicants are California police departments, sheriff departments, and probation departments;
- Proposals must address a minimum of one (1) of the following Program Purpose Areas (PPAs):
  - PPA 1: Organized Retail Theft
  - PPA 2: Motor Vehicle or Motor Vehicle Accessory Theft
  - PPA 3: Cargo Theft
- Applicants may apply for funding in a Medium Scope (up to \$6,125,000) or Large Scope Category (up to \$15,650,000);
- Allowable activities included but are not limited to automated license plate readers, cameras, databases, and investigative software; and
- Proposals selected for funding will be under agreement from October 1, 2023, to June 1, 2027.

#### Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program

- Eligible applicants are California District Attorneys
- Proposals must use a vertical prosecution model
  - A prosecutor is assigned to an organized retail theft case from beginning to end (e.g., initial hearing/arrangement to sentencing). Under this model, the victim(s), witness(es), and impacted law enforcement official(s) have a single point of contact throughout the process.
- Applicants may apply for funding in a Small Scope (up to \$800,000) or Large Scope Category (up to \$2,050,000)
- Allowable activities include but are not limited to case management systems, computers, databases, and contractors; and
- Proposals selected for funding will be under agreement from October 1, 2023, to June 1, 2027.

Staff is also requesting that a Scoring Panel be convened in lieu of an Executive Steering Committee. ESCs are tasked with RFP development, reading, and rating proposals, and making funding recommendations to the Board. A Scoring Panel does not have the RFP development responsibilities. This may lead to increased interest from prospective members with limited time for meeting available. If necessary, internal staff may also be used to supplement the Scoring Panel.

#### **Proposed Activities**

The BSCC will continue to seek interested persons to participate on a Scoring Panel for this grant program. Interested persons may submit a statement of interest to serve through the BSCC's website: [Executive Steering Committees - Seeking Membership](#).

Below are the proposed activities and a revised tentative timeline necessary to administer a competitive RFP for both grant programs:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Tentative Timeline</b>
Present the RFP for BSCC Board approval	April 13, 2023
Release the RFP	April 14, 2023
Bidders' Conferences	May 2023
Proposals Due to the BSCC	June 23, 2023
Proposal Rating Process and Development of Funding Recommendations	July-August 2023
BSCC Board Considers Funding Recommendations	September 14, 2023
Grant Period Begins	October 1, 2023

### **Recommendation/Action Needed**

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve the Organized Retail Theft Prevention and Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program Request for Proposals for release;
2. Authorize a Scoring Panel to convene and make funding recommendations to the Board; and
3. Approve the proposed activities and revised timelines associated with the Request for Proposals.

### **Attachments**

- D-1: Senate Bill 154, Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program
- D-2: Assembly Bill 178, Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program
- D-3: BSCC Board Agenda Item E, July 25, 2022
- D-4: Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program Request for Proposal
- D-5: Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program Request for Proposal