Subject: A resolution to authorize the Little Rock Police Department to create the Real Time Crime Center and to allocate various funding sources toward the Center.

Submitted By: Little Rock Police Department

Action Required: Ordinance √ Resolution

Approved By: Bruce T. Moore City Manager

SYNOPSIS

A resolution to authorize the creation of a Real Time Crime Center to provide timely and relevant information to support patrol and investigative units by utilizing available technology and information to enhance the effectiveness of the Little Rock Police Department.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated total cost of the project is $1,500,000.00, and the initial $200,000.00 of expenses will be paid from Seized Funds, Account No. 270529-G35148. Remaining funding will be provided through additional funding sources.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the resolution.

BACKGROUND

The Vision of the Little Rock Police Department (LRPD) is to serve as a model for policing by embracing and perfecting the principles of the 21st Century Policing Pillars. One of those Pillars, Technology and Social Media, will provide the Department with the opportunity to address and improve with the addition of a Real Time Crime Center. In addition, A Real Time Crime Center would address another pillar, Community Policing and Crime Reduction. With an increase in violent crime and a decrease in staffing across the country, a Real Time Crime Center could help the department by addressing both trends at the same time. Members of LRPD have traveled to Real Time Crime Centers in New Orleans, New York City, Memphis and St. Louis.
More and more agencies across the country are reaping the benefits of Real Time Crime Center, and locally, Jonesboro, Arkansas has implemented a Real Time Crime Center by taking advantage of money allocated through the CARES Act.

A Real Time Crime Center focuses the initial investigation of a criminal incident by allocating dedicated resources whose sole responsibility it is to assist Patrol and Detectives in real-time by using the technology they have access to. Officers and Detectives in the field do not have the time to conduct certain basic investigatory tasks because they either do not have immediate access to the tools they need, or it would be unsafe for them to do so. A Real Time Crime Center Investigator can provide Officers and Detective’s with critical information obtained by accessing existing technology, cameras systems, information systems and databases in real-time to reduce the time taken to investigate a criminal act.

This initial funding of the Real Time Crime Center would allow LRPD to purchase computer equipment, such as towers, monitors, software, video monitors and cameras needed to access multiple applications that are processing heavy loads. Presently, the average computer assigned to personnel simply does not meet the minimum requirements to quickly and efficiently utilize the technology available to the Real Time Crime Center. It would also allow staff to outfit the designated workspace in the new LRPD Headquarters Building with the television screens needed to monitor our technology resources in real-time on a larger scale.