



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

DATE: February 19, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

PREPARED BY: Neil Cervenka, Police Chief

PRESENTER: Thomas O'Neal, Police Captain

AGENDA TITLE: Discussion Regarding Blue Envelope Program

RECOMMENDATION

After a review of the report and presentation, the Public Safety Committee should:

1. Provide feedback and suggestions

BACKGROUND

The City of Fort Bragg, per capita, has a higher number of adults with special needs. Contacts between law enforcement and this sensitive population sometimes results in negative results, due to law enforcement not having knowledge to use advanced communication techniques.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

San Diego Sheriff's Office pioneered the Blue Envelope Program in California to promote inclusivity and serve as an enhanced communication awareness tool between law enforcement and community members diagnosed with a condition or disability such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, anxiety or other conditions which may require additional accommodations or awareness during law enforcement interaction.

Currently, the program solely exists in San Diego County and is a collaboration between community organizations and law enforcement agencies there. Our intent is to bring it to Fort Bragg and, eventually, Mendocino County.

The program works by allowing an individual to easily display the Blue Envelope logo or present a Blue Envelope containing certain documents when contacting law enforcement or other community service personnel. Participating individuals never have to register any information, so it is voluntary and self-implemented.

The Blue Envelope was originally intended for drivers of vehicles. It has instructions on what to keep inside, such as contact information, medical information, communication preferences, vehicle registration, insurance and more. On the reverse side, it lists clear

AGENDA ITEM NO. XX

and easy to understand instructions on what to do if pulled over by law enforcement. The intent is to reduce stress, increase communication, and cause positive outcomes with law enforcement.

Blue Envelope information is available in several languages as well to include the largest amount of the population.

This program will require the input and cooperation of multiple stakeholder organizations including Parents and Friends, the Regional Center, and Senior Center. It is critically important that these and other organizations have a voice to ensure this program's success.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There may be expense in purchasing Blue Envelope Program products such as lanyards, seatbelt covers, buttons, ribbons, key chains, bracelets, and stickers. It is our intent to find community partners to sponsor and share in the expense.

No funding source has been identified, but Asset Forfeiture funds may be used for the initial purchase.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Not applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSISTENCY

3D: Continue to modernize our police force to reflect the diversity of our city and foster community engagement through positive interactions that build trust and transparency in our schools and neighborhoods.

7: Embrace a small-town neighborly approach to build positive relationships that strengthen our civic partnerships, connecting us with our diverse residents and businesses by providing the essential municipal services they depend on.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

None at this time.

COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide feedback and suggestions.

ALERNATIVES:

Do not implement the Blue Envelope Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

None applicable.

NOTIFICATION:

None Applicable