



21

COMMUNITY
MITIGATION
FUND

APPENDIX C – SPECIFIC IMPACT GRANT APPLICATION

BD-21-1068-1068C-1068L-56499

Please complete each section of this Application

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

a) NAME OF MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENT ENTITY/DISTRICT

City of Springfield Massachusetts (Police Department)

b) PROJECT NAME (LIMIT 10 WORDS)

2021 Mitigation Equipment & Technology Procurement Project

c) BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION (LIMIT 50 WORDS)

Identify and procure equipment and technology in support of on-going Metro Unit / MGM policing strategies.

d) CONTACT PERSON(S)/TITLE (Persons with responsibility for this grant)

Sergeant Brian Elliott

e) PHONE # AND EMAIL ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON(S)

413-244-2414
Bellott@springfieldpolice.net

f) MAILING ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON(S)

SPD Headquarters – 130 Pearl Street, Springfield, MA 01105
Metro Substation – 75 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01103

2. IMPACT DESCRIPTION/CONNECTION TO GAMING FACILITY

a) Please describe in detail the impact that is attributed to the operation of a gaming facility.

A detailed description of each equipment and technology item has been included in the body of our application. These items have been identified specifically to increase efficiencies and capacity in support of law enforcement programming specific to daily operations of the MGM gaming facility, specialty events that attract thousands of guests including concerts, gaming give-a-ways, prize fights, and alike as well as to ensure the seamless delivery of site security and high volume traffic flow management. With 2.5 years of first-hand experience, we now know our strengths and deficits relative to equipment items that will increase our capacity manage out of town visitors with an overall goal to ensure their visit was pleasant and incident free. We deliver high quality, customer based public safety programming which optimizes the deployment of officers and equipment to ensure incident free traffic flow and event security/management.

b) Please provide documentation, specificity or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e. surveys, data, reports)

Historically speaking, fiscal margins have been thin for the Springfield Police Department as the City grapples with unacceptable incidents of crime and violence, particularly in troubled neighborhoods outside of the downtown/Metro area. Resources that would potentially support surge event public safety needs in the downtown area are utilized to combat gang and gun violence in high crime areas leaving very little to allocate for planned, event based law enforcement programming in the downtown area. Judicious use of DOJ/BJA grants at the federal level as well as grant funding at the state level, including the Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative and the Safe and Successful Youth Grant offered through EOPSS provide essential enforcement dollars for our highest crime areas. The existence of the gang, gun and drug problems predated the opening of our MGM casino. What has happened is that the casino and the Metro area around the casino has become a main attraction/destination location for some of our most prolific offenders. As you would imagine, it takes great coordination across specialty bureaus as well as planning and communication with our state and federal law enforcement partners to ensure that the casino property and the surrounding areas remains safe and free of the existence and influence of crime and disorder. We have learned how to develop and maintain effective programming since we first began 2.5 years ago. To date, approximately 3 million people have visited our casino. Issues of crime and violence are relatively unremarkable. It is our intention to keep that record of success intact.

c) How do you anticipate your proposed remedy will address the identified impact?

The equipment and technology items identified will undoubtedly increase the efficiency of our law enforcement programming as well as add capacity in areas that need more resource. Seamless, customer based public safety programming is our goal. The equipment will aid in our pursuit of this goal.

3. PROPOSED USE OF SPECIFIC IMPACT MITIGATION FUNDS. (Please attach additional sheets/supplemental materials if necessary.)

a) Please identify the amount of funding requested.

\$105,500

b) Please identify below the manner in which the funds are proposed to be used. Please provide detailed scope, budget and timetable for the use of funds.

Upon successful notification of funding, the procurement process will begin in accordance with local, state and federal procurement regulations. The project period will begin upon notification of funding and conclude no later than June 30, 2022. The overall budget for the law enforcement / public safety module is \$105,500 dollars. Specific equipment costs are included in the body of the law enforcement narrative.

c) Please provide documentation (e.g. - invoices, proposals, estimates, etc.) adequate for the Commission to ensure that the funds will be used for the cost of mitigating the impact from the operation of a gaming establishment.

Equipment / technology costs were identified via internet quote, Chapter 30 state bid pricing and manufacturer pricing schedules. As quotes are generally valid for 30 day periods, updated quotes and matching invoices will be available in support of funding verification requirements prior to purchase.

d) Please describe how the mitigation request will address the impact indicated.

MGC mitigation funding will ensure the desired increase in program efficiencies. If funded, each item listed in the body of our application will incrementally increase our capacity to deliver public safety programming.

e) How will you provide the data for reporting? How will you measure the effectiveness of the proposed project in mitigating impacts?

Financial records, invoices, etc. will be available for inspection relative to the procurement of said equipment items. Anticipated efficiencies and capacity will be re-evaluated at the time of procurement/deployment to verify anticipated increases.

4. RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM HOST OR SURROUNDING COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

a) Please describe and include excerpts from any relevant sections of any Host or Surrounding Community Agreement.

b) Please explain how this impact was either anticipated or not anticipated in that Agreement.

The equipment and technology items included in our application were identified as a result of the discovery of an inefficiency or deficit. There was no way to project or forecast the need or the potential use of these equipment items 2.5 years ago. The benefit of experience has guided our selections contained herein.

5. INTERNAL CONTROLS/ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS

a) Please provide detail regarding the controls that will be used to ensure that funds will only be used to address the impact.

The Springfield Police Department, it's police program/project manager, the City of Springfield's Finance Department and the Office of Procurement are working collaboratively to ensure fiscal and programmatic fidelity to the 2021 MGC Community Mitigation Fund guidelines.

b) Will any non-governmental entity receive funds? If so, please describe. If non-governmental entities will receive any funds, please describe what reporting will be required and how the applicant will remedy any misuse of funds.

No as it relates to the law enforcement / public safety module of this application.

6. CERTIFICATION BY MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY

On behalf of the aforementioned municipality/governmental entity I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this Application.



Date: 02/01/2021

**Signature of Responsible Municipal
Official/Governmental Entity**

Melanie A. Acobe

(print name)

Budget Director

Title:

2021 Community Specific Impact / Mitigation Fund Application

1. **Data connectivity improvement for Metro Sub-station & Metro Gaming Enforcement Unit back to SPD Headquarters \$8,000**

We have identified a significant data connectivity deficit between the Metro Sub-Division Office, the Metro Gaming Enforcement Unit located in the MSP/SPD office space located at 95 State Street and our departmental headquarters located at 130 Pearl Street.

When the office space for the gaming enforcement unit was planned out as a portion of the overall buildout of the MGM improvements, it did not include a dedicated data link to support the Springfield Police Department Gaming Enforcement Unit officers back to SPD headquarters. The current connectivity is sporadic, unreliable and slow. Due to low connectivity, something as simple as creating an incident report or trying to download and print a photograph from our records division can take two, three, four times what would be considered reasonable. Often times, officers have to run back to departmental headquarters to achieve this task which turns out to be faster to leave and comeback than it is to accomplish this from their office.

To a lesser degree the Metro Office substation located at 75 Dwight Street also has some connectivity issue as well. As a crow flies, from the SPD GEU office located at 95 State Street, to the Metro Unit sub-station at 75 Dwight Street back to headquarters on Pearl Street it measures less than one mile. Much of what is needed exists in some form in the street and/or other city conduit.

What has not happened is an optimization where all three locations communicate and exchange data within the same data pipeline. When we planned for the opening of MGM, we had no way to know how well our disparate web of connectivity would function. We now know that it does not meet our connectivity needs.

In our 2020 MGC mitigation application, we identified the need and subsequently procured a flat panel smartboard. As intended, this smartboard is now the keystone technology we expected it to be for all things planning. Little did we know that with the onset of Covid, much of our planning would transition to “virtual” meetings. This time last year, Zoom was a television show from the early 90’s and now, we Zoom into meetings multiple times a week.

In addition to Zoom meetings, and records management access, body worn cameras (BWC)s have to be downloaded on a daily basis. Doing so requires high quality/speed connectivity to support the download. We are at critical mass with our current data link. We must rebuild our data link infrastructure with purpose to support the new found need for seamless connectivity between our MGM GEU office, the Metro Sub-station and police headquarters.

2. **Ford F150 Patrol rated pickup truck for logistical ground support for specialty events. \$53,000**

MGM Springfield opened in August of 2018. Since that time the visitor count estimate hovers around 3 million people to date. For the first 3 months of 2020, business was vigorous and large scale event support was an important component of our weekly planning. In fact the last two large scale event that we supported were the Red Sox Winter Weekend and the Bernie Sanders rally which brought in excess of 25 thousand people.

We have successfully hosted and supported these events as well as support the day to day operation of MGM through extensive planning, specific event preparation and the judicious application of equipment and technology. With the onset of Covid, it proved to be a hard stop relative to the day to day operations of MGM as well as the large scale high profile events. Planning and strategies changed commensurate to meet the new challenges of supporting MGM and related businesses as they went into full shutdown overnight and as they slowly come back on line. One big challenge is that all patrols transitioned from a 2 officer patrol to a one person per vehicle patrol in an effort to minimize Covid exposure among our sworn personnel. The transition to one officer patrols created a significant vehicle deficit department wide, and in the Metro Unit specifically. In desperation the department called all known equipment suppliers in an attempt to purchase additional vehicles. Fortunately for us, 2 surplus environmental police pickup trucks were offered to us as the only vehicles available for purchase last May. The department procured these vehicles, one of which was assigned to the Metro Unit and the other to the traffic division which met our identified need in the Metro Unit, as outlined in our 2020 application.

As our 2020 MGC submission request was favorably reviewed relative to our line item request for a pickup truck, having procured a pickup truck a month earlier, we sought and received permission to repurpose the monies identified for the purchase a pickup truck to purchase an Explorer patrol vehicle as an offset.

The pickup truck has proven to be invaluable in terms of utility and logistical support as we now prepare for the next phase of re-opening with the resumption of a 24/7 operations at MGM. High traffic count on peak nights will resume. The need to manage people, traffic and the physical space that they occupy is greater than ever. Moving traffic cones, barriers, and related signage is key to planning and management in the “new normal” in our world with Covid. Limiting occupancy to low percentages of what would be normal or full occupancy, creates lines, static traffic, etc. We anticipate this will increase over the course of the spring and summer as people become more comfortable being present in public spaces. We are seeing a pent up desire to resume dining and entertainment participation, particularly, on weekends. We do not think that a full reopening will occur anytime soon, however, everything is trending toward greater occupancy with each passing day.

We have the experience and knowledge to setup and support events that bring 10, 20, 30 thousand people to the downtown area on any given day. We move equipment and personnel throughout the duration of the event. The ability to efficiently move officers and equipment is crucial to the safety of our residents, visitors and MGM guests and ensure a pleasant experience for all who come to the downtown area.

Therefore, we seek to purchase a full size, crew cab pickup truck with emergency lighting, departmental graphics and tow package. We have (8) towable equipment items including light towers, portable sign/speed boards, and a new utility vehicle with trailer. The need to efficiently move these equipment items to locations for maximum benefit is crucial to successful event planning.

3. **Connex Box / Shipping Container Storage Units - \$12,000**

As outlined in the narrative above, we have a number of equipment and technology items that are expensive and need to be stored out of the open elements. Equipment items procured through Justice Assistance Grants as well as items such as our MGC funded portable light towers that need dry, secure storage in between usage. We have (3) variable message portable sign boards @ \$19,000 each, (4) Piaggio motorbikes and (6) patrol mountain bicycles that need dedicated storage. We currently store these items in our parking garage, however, employee and cruiser parking space is at a premium as we are limited in our allotted parking because we share the parking garage with a commercial residential building that has 2,000 tenants. The time has come to store the expensive equipment in storage areas that are clean, dry and secure. We have identified “Connex” style shipping containers to meet our need for storage. Used containers that have only traveled overseas one time are available through a local dealership. Being “slightly” used, the storage units are almost brand new however are priced significantly below a new model. We have a fenced in outside parking area designated for police only use that we will locate the storage units.

4. **Protective Shields - \$15,000**

In our 2020 application we included a request for protective shields. When we submitted this request, we did so in January of 2020 with no way of knowing that what we had hypothesized as potential scenarios would actually play out in real life as public protests began to erupt in medium and large urban areas across the country.

In one year, we have responded to multiple, well organized, generally peaceful protests, one of which drew a crowd of approximately 6,000 people. For the larger protests, we remained in constant contact with our officers assigned to the MGM Gaming Enforcement Unit as well as the MGM head of security. With each large gathering, a significant concern was held by all that high profile locations would fall victim to

impulsive acts of random violence and malicious destruction of property. We have witnessed a number of communities burn in protestation of law enforcement / community differences, political protests relating back to national agendas and seemingly now, protests for the sake of protests. Most recently, we witnessed the hostile takeover of the most sacred ground in the United States government, the Capital building.

It is with great respect that we re-submit this request for protective gear. At writing, we have 10 shields that date back to the early 1970's. These shields are heavily scratched, missing straps and related hardware. They are way beyond their useful service life. We understand that this request within our overall 2020 application was the subject of significant debate and consideration. Please be assured that the utility of this equipment request is 100% officer safety, to protect officers from projectiles, liquids and as we have seen more recently, the misuse of pyrotechnics/fireworks. All of these threats were present for our local protests.

We have identified the procurement of 50 protective shields (\$300 ea.) as an aid to increase the safety of officers tasked with managing and/or curbing these group acts of public disorder.

5. **BOLAWRAP De-escalation equipment - \$15,000**

The BolaWrap is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an 8 foot Kevlar cord/tether intended to wrap around a non-compliant subject's legs or arms at an effective range of 10-25 feet. The BolaWrap is technology designed to be deployed when an individual transitions from non-compliant passive to active resistant. The BolaWrap is "the only remote response to resistance tool that ensures a safe space between the suspect and the officer". Basically, this technology allows an officer who is dealing with an agitated, non-compliant subject to introduce this technology prior to going "hands on". When deployed properly, this technology will rapidly deploy a Kevlar "cord" which is designed to wrap around a subject's legs and/or arms effectively rendering them useless. Unlike the Taser which delivers an electrical pulse via a wire conduit, the BolaWrap simply winds a cord around the legs or arms of a subject prior to the officer physically taking hold of a subject albeit to apply handcuffs or to physically restrain a person who may be emotionally disturbed, under the influence of alcohol or drugs all with an intent to "de-escalate" a situation where force and custody are in play.

Incapacitation is momentary and painless. Once deployed, the cord is designed to entangle the appendages of a person to prevent flight or flailing arms which is highly desirable when the officer has made the decision to move in and physical control of a person for whatever reason. Unlike Taser, there are no barbs or probes to remove. To free a person from this temporary restraint, the officer simply "cuts the cord" and the restraint is removed.

Officers assigned to the Metro Unit as well as the officers assigned to the GEU who patrols the gaming floor and surrounding property work in very close quarters to thousands of guests, concert goers, bar and restaurant patrons, etc. This technology lends itself to this type of law enforcement need. <https://www.wrap.com/>

We seek to purchase (15) devices @ \$1,000 each.

6. **Traffic Cones 36" - \$2,500**

In 2019, we purchased 200 traffic cones which are dedicated to the Metro Unit. We regularly deploy these cones to guide and manage traffic patterns in support of large events. We found that we could use additional cones for the big events. Additionally, over the course of 2 years traffic cones get destroyed, run over, dragged under vehicles, etc. We are seeking to add to our supply of cones as we ramp up to return to full operation in the coming months.