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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

Hampden District Attorney's Office

b) PROJECT NAME (LIMIT 10 WORDS)

Hampden District Attorney Public Safety Grant

c) BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION (LIMIT 50 WORDS)

This application is for continued funding for the purpose of mitigating the impact of the casino and casino related matters on the District Attorney's Office. The funding, which has been in place for two years will continue to be for personnel to handle casino-related prosecutions.

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

Joan O'Brien CFO/Director of Operations

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

413-505-5671
Joan.obrien@state.ma.us

f) MAILING ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON(S)

50 State 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.

As expected with the opening of MGM Springfield gaming facility which includes a hotel, additional restaurants, entertainment venues, there has been a substantial increase in activity in the downtown area. While this impact is mostly positive, it does not come without some public safety issues. There has been a notable amount of arrests attributable to the gaming enforcement units which have in turn added to the workload in the District Attorney's office. COVID has changed this dynamic but we expect the activity to increase as MGM Springfield has returned to a 24hour/7day a week operation. This office will see that increase when courts reopen in the future.

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)

This office has handled hundreds of casino related matters as they progress through the court system which is indicative of how the gaming facility has impacted this office. As outlined in Section 3b below, each casino-related case adds to our already significant caseload.

In the past year, this has changed due to COVID which caused not only casino, restaurant and other entertainment closures but also court closures and limited case management. However, the process outlined below is still in place and will operate in the same manner as the casino and entertainment venues reopen and courts begin full operation.

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

The funding will directly ease the financial burden imposed by the increased caseload. Each case represents additional casework that must be managed through our system by administrative personnel. A victim witness advocate handles initial victim outreach on all cases involving a victim.

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

a) Please identify the amount of funding requested.

We are requesting \$75,000.00

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.

The proposed funding will be used for personnel to mitigate the additional burdens in caseloads that are created directly and indirectly by the influx of people into the downtown area due to the casino. Every criminal matter associated with the casino goes through the administrative process within the District Attorney's Office. Administrative assistants must create files, manage them in the office database and continue to index the case as it progresses to its conclusion. Additionally, a victim witness advocate handles initial victim outreach on all victim related cases and follows through with transferring documentation to the subsequent advocate who will handle the matter to its conclusion. An ADA often assists in the day-to-day handling of arraignments and other matters related to casino matters.

The more serious cases are prosecuted by this office, which means additionally work for the ADA, victim witness advocate and administrative staff for the duration of the case.

Fewer cases are being handled during COVID due to court closures and currently there are fewer casino-related cases due to COVID restrictions. However, this will change as we enter into the next fiscal year when the requested monies will be used. We expect a huge volume of cases as new matters are added to cases that have been continued for the past year due to COVID. The pandemic has changed the way we live and work and its impact will be felt for a long time by every aspect of society including the court system. We are approaching a year since courts have been closed or have had reduced case management. The cases that were to be handled routinely have been continued and new cases have been added daily. As courts reopen, there will be a converging of old and new cases which will strain an already burdened system. This office will be busier than ever before.

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.

The funds go directly to offset the salaries of employees who directly handle the administration and prosecution of casino-related matters. Quarterly reports are submitted indicating the expenditures. It is not possible to provide an accurate number of casino related cases coming through the court system at this time. Pending cases have been continued numerous times and many new cases have been delayed due to COVID causing statistics to be impossible to capture.

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

The funding will directly ease the financial burden imposed by the increased caseload. Each case represents additional casework that must be documented in our system by administrative personnel. A victim witness advocate handles initial victim outreach on all cases involving a victim.

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

The funds will not be used for a “project” but to offset the costs related to public safety and the gaming establishment as outlined by the legislature.

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.

The legislature anticipated the impact on public safety of the Expanded Gaming Act by including specifically and by name the office of the local district attorney in establishing the Community Mitigation Fund. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 23K Sec., 61(b) reads in pertinent part: "The commission shall administer the fund and, without further appropriation, shall expend monies in the fund to assist the host community and surrounding communities in offsetting costs related to the construction and operation of a gaming establishment including, but not limited to....public safety, including the office of the county district attorney, police, fire and emergency services."

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

The impact was anticipated by specifically including the “county district attorney” as an agency that the funding was to cover.

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.

These funds are subject to the procedures and protocols of the District Attorney’s office in the administration of budgetary controls.

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.

N/A

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.

Anthony D. Gulluni

Date: February 1, 2021

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

Anthony D. Gulluni

(print name)

Hampden District Attorney

Title: