



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: November 5, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number:

Michael G Hemby - 44924

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:

Greg Hamilton, Sheriff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "GH", written over the printed name of Greg Hamilton.

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Sam Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Consider and approve authorization for Sheriff Hamilton to execute Memorandum of Understanding and Cost Reimbursement Agreement between TCSO and the FBI related to participation in the Cyber Crimes Task Force.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

The Travis County Sheriff's requests authorization for Sheriff Hamilton to execute documents related to TCSO's participation and eligibility for reimbursement for various costs related to agency participation in the San Antonio/Austin Joint Cyber Crimes Task Force.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Greg Hamilton, Sheriff

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.



JAMES SYLVESTER
Chief Deputy

GREG HAMILTON
TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF

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DARREN LONG
Major - Corrections

PHYLIS CLAIR
Major - Law Enforcement

MARK SAWA
Major - Administration & Support

October 23, 2013

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Honorable Sam Biscoe, County Judge
Honorable Ron Davis, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Honorable Bruce Todd, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Honorable Gerald Daugherty, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Honorable Margaret Gomez, Commissioner, Precinct 4**

FROM: Michael G Hemby 783, TCSO Research and Planning

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SUBJECT: Cyber Crimes Task Force - MOU

San Antonio/Austin Area Cyber Crimes Task Force Defined:

The San Antonio Area Cyber Crimes Task Force was recently formed to bring together local, state and federal experts to combat computer intrusions, viruses and other cyber threats. The task force is based out of the San Antonio Division of the FBI but has an Austin presence and are adding partners to combat this growing criminal enterprise in our area. This group not only focuses on investigations but on education to prevent persons and businesses from becoming victims of this growing threat to our community and economy.

According to the 2012 IC3 government report on Cyber Crimes, Texas ranks number 3 behind California and Florida in victim complaints of electronic theft of information. The 2012 estimates for the loss in dollars for just the State of Texas are in excess of 30 million.

Crimes can range of course from Auto Fraud to e-mail scams which we all probably see come across our screens from time to time. Unfortunately we also see a darker side which included intimidation and extortion scams which can prey on the elderly and other vulnerable populations who fall prey to information they receive electronically. Even more startling are the crimes involving ransom demands and even the hiring of criminal persons for bodily harm to others. The FBI has a very robust investigative team that seeks to address matters that reach

this type of magnitude but of course are dependent on local law enforcement partners for assistance in handling matters in their jurisdictions in a collaborative fashion.

For a copy of the formal report referenced above you can go to

http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreport/2012_IC3Report.pdf

TCSO Involvement:

TCSO has for several years had staff committed to white-collar crimes and computer forensics. However, we have not had dedicated staff for cyber-crimes per se. However, we now see the need to increase our vigilance and ability to investigate and respond to these matters. The current key priorities of the FBI focus on computer and network intrusions; identity theft; and fraud. These are shared priorities as they are the types of complaints and crimes that we see increasing in the Austin area.

Action Requested:

Very similar to our recent request for authorization to re-join the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), we have decided that it is in the best interest of our citizens to join forces with our other local, state and federal partners and we will be dedicating an existing Senior Deputy Sheriff FTE to this endeavor. There are no additional costs in our re-deployment of resources at this time.

The documents presented to the Court are the formal Memorandum of Understanding and Cost Reimbursement documents related to the task force. Fortunately, the federal government will assist in some of the financial expenses related to our participation as they did before.

These documents have been reviewed and approved by the Travis County Attorney and our request is for your review and approval to authorize Sheriff Hamilton to execute these documents.

We feel that it is in the best interest of not only the citizens of Travis County, but the for the overall good of our nation that we continue our commitment to working with our state and federal partners to address this growing crime trend in our community. As technology increases and thus our dependence on that technology for our daily lives and business, it is clear that law enforcement must react to deter and combat these sophisticated criminal persons and organizations. Thus, we again solicit your support in approving our agency to join our partners in ensuring that we vigorously pursue individuals who use technology to do harm to our citizens.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email at Michael.hemby@co.travis.tx.us