

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Memorandum of Understanding between Shoreline Police and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
DEPARTMENT:	Police Department
PRESENTED BY:	Dan Pingrey, Police Chief

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

There are many opportunities within the law enforcement community to share resources and provide mutual aid. Often these opportunities come as a result of increased crime or a specific trend that occurs within a community or region. Law enforcement often addresses these issues through task forces and the sharing of intelligence through regional and national databases.

There has been a significant increase in the sales and use of oxycontin (oxy) and other pharmaceutical drugs in Shoreline and the western states.

BACKGROUND:

The Shoreline Police Special Emphasis Team has conducted several investigations involving the use and sales of oxycontin. The individuals involved in these crimes have had significant impact on our local youth population as well as our normal criminal element. One of these investigations has branched out significantly and placed us in contact with investigators with the DEA.

Due to the good intelligence provided to the DEA the case is steadily growing. The DEA has determined that prescription forgery and subsequent oxy sales have become one of the most prevalent drug crimes in the nation. As a result they have created several Tactical Diversion Task Forces throughout the United States. One of these Task Forces is located in Seattle and they have asked the Shoreline Police Department along with several other agencies to join.

The agreement will require that the Shoreline Police Department provide one Police Officer to the Task Force for up to two years. The Task Force will work cases that are generated out of Shoreline along with cases that may result from local law enforcement agencies within a tri-state area. The Shoreline Police will review the benefits of the position every six months to determine its viability and benefits to the City of Shoreline.

Benefits include the use of Task Force personnel, all of their technology and investigative aids at a moment's notice.

The DEA Task Force focuses on pharmacies and doctors that illegally supply narcotics to individuals through insurance fraud and or forged prescriptions. The Task Force also investigates Internet pharmacies that supply illegal or fake prescriptions to unsuspecting victims. These Internet companies can be local or international. Leads are followed through various tracking procedures.

Funds obtained by these individuals or companies are illegal and will be seized. These funds are then shared by all agencies involved in the Task Force. It is our hope that seized assets will pay for the Officer's position and possibly provide financing for future SET Unit positions. Our six month review will be focused on this premise.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS:

There should be no significant/immediate impact on service in the City of Shoreline. The workload of the vacancy will be managed within the department by reassigning personnel. There would be overtime incurred if officers take vacation, training or sick days. If any long term vacancy occurs we would consider temporarily reassigning a traffic unit to reduce overtime impacts to the budget. As mentioned earlier we will review this assignment every six months to determine if it is financially viable for the City.

Our primary functions will continue to be 911 response, traffic enforcement and criminal investigations. We will always look at innovative ways to provide prompt and efficient service to our citizens on a daily basis. We actively look for ways to enhance our ability to proactively address crime trends and criminal elements through shared resources and information. Task forces are an example of a shared resource that not only benefits the Shoreline community but our entire region.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the MOU between the DEA and the City of Shoreline to provide one police officer to the Regional Tactical Diversion Task Force.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney ____