



**Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council**

**APPROVE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY THROUGH THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION FOR THEIR SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**  
(Police Chief Landon Phillips)

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**Recommended Action:**

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Approve a grant agreement of \$80,000 from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, for their Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) (**Attachment 1**);
2. Add estimated revenue of \$80,000 in the Grants Fund; and
3. Appropriate \$80,000 in the Grants Fund for traffic enforcement operations to reduce alcohol-related accidents and other primary crash factors.

**Executive Summary:**

The Hermosa Beach Police Department (HBPD) received an OTS-STEP grant in September 2024 to fund several different traffic enforcement operations between October 2024 to September 2025. HBPD applied again for the OTS-STEP grant in January 2025 to continue these operations and was accepted in September 2025 for further funding. Staff recommends City Council approve the grant agreement authorizing the acceptance of \$80,000 from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to reduce alcohol-related accidents and other primary crash factors.

**Background:**

Every year, OTS offers a variety of grant funding to law enforcement agencies to support efforts to reduce alcohol-related and preventable crashes by enforcing traffic measures. The OTS-STEP grant specifically focuses on reducing the numbers of persons killed and injured in crashes involving alcohol and other primary factors like distracted driving. OTS supports law enforcement strategies through impaired driving enforcement, enforcement operations focusing on primary crash factors; night-time seat belt enforcement; special enforcement operations encouraging motorcycle safety; enforcement and public awareness in areas with a high number of bicycle and pedestrian crashes; and educational program. In this recent past grant cycle (October 2024 – September 2025), the following operations were conducted by HBPD:

- Two (2) DUI/Driver License Checkpoints

- Ten (10) DUI Saturation Operations
- Twenty (20) Traffic Enforcement Operations
- Four (4) Distracted Driving Operations
- Five (5) Motorcycle Safety Operations
- Six (6) Pedestrian/Bicycle Enforcement Operations

HBPD would like to continue operating these different enforcement details for the community's wellbeing and safety and successfully received another year of funding for the October 2025 – September 2026 grant year.

**Discussion:**

The Hermosa Beach Police Department is dedicated to promoting traffic safety by enforcing laws and educating the public on primary crash factors, such as distracted and impaired driving. With the increase in special events and the approaching holiday season, HBPD anticipates higher vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

In recent years, HBPD has noticed an increase in the number of traffic crashes that have occurred in the city. In 2022, HBPD responded to 491 calls for service regarding traffic crashes while in 2023, that number increased to 500 calls for service. Though the number of DUI arrests have decreased between 2022 to 2024, it continues to be a major issue in the City. With the recent OTS grant funding, additional officers were out in the field conducting different enforcement operations focused on distracted driving, e-bikes, traffic enforcement, and others mentioned above. In addition, officers were sent to sobriety-related training courses like DUI school and Drug Recognition Education classes to enhance their field skills. With this past year's OTS Funding, HBPD was successful in implementing different operations and offering training opportunities for newer officers. With the second year of grant funding, HBPD is dedicated to continuing their enforcement efforts in keeping Hermosa Beach safe.

The OTS-STEP grant outlines several objectives for HBPD during the grant period. The Grant Agreement (**Attachment 1**) includes the full list. Key objectives include:

- Training law enforcement personnel through National Highway Traffic Safety Administration programs such as Drug Recognition, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement.
- Conducting highly publicized enforcement operations focused on distracted driving, motorcycle safety, and pedestrian/bicycle enforcement.
- Conducting DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints
- Providing educational presentations on traffic safety topics, including distracted driving, DUI, speed, bicycle and pedestrian safety, seat belts, and child passenger safety.

Staff recommends City Council approve the grant agreement, authorizing the acceptance of \$80,00 from OTS to help reduce alcohol-related accidents and other primary crash factors.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration approved HBPD's funding request, granting the City a total of \$80,000 to reduce alcohol-related accidents and other primary crash factors.

If approved, estimated revenue of \$80,000 and appropriation of \$80,000 would be added in the Grants Fund to the FY 2025-26 Budget for the OTS grant funded above operations equipment.

<b>Agreement Request</b>		
<b>Request Amount</b>	<b>FY 2025-26 Budget Dept. Account #</b>	<b>Total Grant Agreement Amount</b>
\$80,000	150-2114-4201	\$80,000

**Attachment:**

OTS-STEP Grant Agreement

**Respectfully Submitted by:** Joanne Loeza, Management Analyst

**Concur:** Garrett McDermott, Police Sergeant

**Concur:** Landon Phillips, Police Chief

**Noted for Fiscal Impact:** Henry Chao, Finance Manager

**Concur:** Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

**Legal Review:** Jason Baltimore, Interim City Attorney

**Approved:** Steve Napolitano, Interim City Manager