



**City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS**

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Legislative File No: 2008-0183

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Captain Robert Smith & Lieutenant Stephen Jacobs
DATE: 04/09/08
SUBJECT: 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program Agreement

REQUEST:

City Council is requested to authorize a resolution relating to the 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program Interlocal Funding Agreement. This agreement and resolution will allow for the acceptance of a Disaster Response Trailer that has been fully funded through Homeland Security Grant funds. Acceptance of the agreement means that the City will receive the Disaster Response Trailer at no cost to the city.

BACKGROUND:

Community Emergency Response Team as a concept began as a program of the Los Angeles, California Fire Department in the middle and late 1980's, born out of a need for more trained and organized citizens groups during earthquake disasters. FEMA made this training available nationally in 1993. Since this time, CERT programs have been established in more than 340 communities in 45 states.

In the months following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush launched *USA Freedom Corps* and *Citizen Corps* to help coordinate volunteer activities in our communities. These initiatives are intended:

- To build upon activities that may provide relief and assistance to emergency response agencies
- To provide an outlet for an increased number of citizens and businesses looking to become involved

Cities and Counties were asked to consider creating Citizen Corps Councils for coordination at the local level. In December 2002, the State of Michigan created a Citizen Corps Council with advisory responsibility. Although changes have been made in the area of coordination, the push for government to enhance partnerships with the private sector and to develop programs that tap into the wave of patriotism and volunteerism continues to this day.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.

The Rochester Hills CERT Team has 86 members, many who have been involved in a variety of community events, activation events and training scenarios. In all, they logged a combined 3042 hours of service during 2007. Team members give of themselves on a regular basis and do so at great sacrifice to themselves and their families. The one constant seems to be the need for adequate equipment to assist in their training scenarios and response to incidents. Included is a list of equipment that has been awarded via a Grant from the State of Michigan.

(1) CERT Trailer (6X14) outfitted with a Portable Generator – (2) Portable Work Lights with Stands & (2) Folding Tables & (10) Folding Chairs. Total value = \$7,670.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Rochester Hills City Council approve the 2006 Homeland Security Grant Program Interlocal Funding Agreement allowing for acceptance of the pre funded Disaster Response Trailer and any subsequent equipment that may be obtained already fully funded from Grant programs. Acceptance of the trailer or any other equipment from the above mentioned grants is at no cost to the city.

APPROVALS:	SIGNATURE	DATE
Department Review		
Department Director		
Mayor		
City Council Liaison		

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