



Council Agenda Item 25-0607R

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2025

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A \$70,000 CRIME VICTIM SERVICES PROSECUTORIAL GRANT FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, TO PARTIALLY FUND A VICTIM SERVICES SPECIALIST POSITION IN THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

SUBMITTED BY: City Attorney's Office

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTIONS: The city council has authorized the crime victim services prosecutorial grant since 2018.

BACKGROUND: The city attorney's office established a victim services specialist position after receiving a grant award from the Minnesota department of public safety, office of justice programs in 2018. The City has continued to receive grant funding for this position since 2018.

Chapter 611A of the Minnesota Statutes establishes victim rights that law enforcement, prosecutors, corrections and other criminal justice professionals are required to honor when an individual is victimized because of criminal activity. These rights safeguard fair and equal access to justice. The victim services specialist fulfills this statutory mandate, thereby ensuring that the city attorney's office is compliant with Chapter 611A. The victim services specialist duties include informing victims of their rights, connecting victims to community resources/services, serving as a conduit of information between the prosecutor's office and the victim, preparing victims for hearings, and supporting prosecutors with jury trial preparation.

During FY2024, the city attorney's office received referrals for 524 qualified domestic related offenses alone. The victim services specialist provides services to most victims of crimes that are prosecuted by the city attorney's office. Given the volume of cases and the nature of the services provided, the work of the victim service specialist is vitally important to victims and the city attorney's office.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: This \$70,000 grant partially funds the .8 FTE victim services specialist position in the city attorney's office.

OPTIONS:

NECESSARY ACTION: Authorize city officials to sign the grant agreement and receive the grant.

ATTACHMENTS: