

Council Agenda Item 26-0176R



MEETING DATE: March 23, 2026

SUBJECT/TITLE: 2024 Operation Stonegarden Grant

SUBMITTED BY: Kerry Cronin-Jones

RECOMMENDATION: Approve.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Last approved by council 1/13/2025

BACKGROUND: The Duluth Police Department has been participating in the Operation Stonegarden Grant (OPSG) for over 15 years. The Port of Duluth-Superior is the largest tonnage port on the Great Lakes and ranks among the top 20 ports in the U.S., handling an average of 35 million short tons of cargo and welcoming more than 700 vessel visits each year. The spring of 2022 marked the return of large-scale Cruise ships to our Port after a decade long hiatus, with each vessel hosting hundreds of travelers.

As outlined in the Operations Order governing these grant funds, the mission of OPSG is to enhance situational awareness and increased law enforcement presence at or near the international boundary and/or routes of egress from the broader area. This operation does not extend authority to any participating law enforcement agency to enforce federal immigration or customs laws.

The DPD has historically used these funds for overtime reimbursement for eligible shifts happening in either of our Port areas (Canal Park and the airport). More specifically, Grandma's Marathon (approx. 50,000 visitors over 3 days), the Air Show (approx. 55,000 visitors over 3 days), Bentleyville (approx. 325,000 visitors) and summer bike patrol shifts in and around Canal Park.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: The City of Duluth hosts an estimated 6.7 million visitors annually. Providing public safety to our community members in addition to the significant number of visitors we see in our city is a tall order. When large events take place, the DPD brings additional officers in on overtime to provide event specific coverage. The three largest events referenced above take place in either of the city's two port areas, making them eligible for OPSG reimbursement. If this grant is not approved, the overtime funds needed to ensure safety at our large-scale events will instead hit the city's general fund.

NECESSARY ACTION: Please approve.

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – Covers sheet (nonpublic data) and FY24 Operation Stonegarden Operations Order, Document B – Partner Agreement