



INGLEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
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U.S. Department of Justice Grant Approved – Police Layoffs Averted

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) announced today that the grant application submitted by the City of Inglewood has been approved. Due to the City's current fiscal crisis, the Inglewood Police Department was faced with the potential layoff of eight police officers; the lay-offs were scheduled to take effect on November 5th. The Police Department applied to the Department of Justice for a grant under the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP), a federal allocation of funds set aside to assist local law enforcement agencies to hire additional police officers or preserve existing positions. Inglewood's grant award will be in excess of three million dollars. Mayor James T. Butts, Jr., Councilman Eloy Morales, and Councilman Ralph Franklin personally met with the Director of the COPS Office in Washington, DC to lobby for these funds after the City's initial application for modification was denied.

The approval of the CHRP Grant will avert the anticipated layoff of police officers and ensure that the City can maintain its current staffing for the next three to four years. Mayor Butts released the following statement in reaction to the approval: "On behalf of the citizens of Inglewood who expect and deserve quality police service and the officers who would have lost their jobs, the City Council and I extend our gratitude to the Department of Justice for providing this much needed assistance." City Manager Artie Fields added, "This announcement comes at a critical time when the City is working toward improving its fiscal outlook while continuing to provide superior service to our community." Inglewood Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks said, "The Police Department has been working tirelessly at reducing crime. The City's overall crime rate continues to be at historic lows as a result of that effort. Our ongoing ability to build further on these crime reductions is definitely enhanced by retaining these eight officers. We are appreciative of the COPS Office's actions."

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