



CITY OF VENICE POLICE DEPARTMENT

TOM MCNULTY ★ Police Chief



TO: Ed Lavallee, City Manager

FROM: Tom McNulty, Chief

DATE: October 23, 2013

SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Item Request – Gulf Coast Community Foundation Grant for Classroom and Cops

Background: Last year through a grant from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the Venice Police Department received funding for the Classroom and Cops Program. The grant provided the means to purchase educational materials and supplies for the program including: coloring books, workbooks, pencils, stickers, drug ID kit, t-shirts, and certificates. The program allows law enforcement officers to interact with elementary school age children. Officers help students learn the value of self and community through awareness and education on various age appropriate topics.

The Pre-K through 2nd grade students are reminded the importance of using seatbelts and wearing bike safety gear. In addition, students are taught to inform adults when going outdoors, street awareness of “Stop, Look, and Listen,” and the importance of recognizing, “Strangers.”

The 3rd through 4th grade students focus primarily on learning to formulate a plan of what to do when they encounter various situations. They are provided realistic scenarios to encourage discussion and make sound decisions. An introduction to gun and internet safety along with the impacts of peer pressure and bullying are examined.

Last year, the 5th grade students were introduced to the inaugural “ADVANCE” (Avoiding Drugs Violence and Negative Choices Early) program. The largest program is 5 weeks long and covers such topics as peer pressure, drugs, gangs, bullying, violence and how to say “NO” through positive alternatives.

The funds will also cover the costs for the 2nd Annual Venice Kids Bike Rodeo, purchase safety brochures and bike helmets.

Requested Action: The Gulf Coast Community Foundation offers grant opportunities to improve community impact. The Foundation issued a check to VPD for \$4,000. Staff requests acceptance of the grant for educational materials and supplies for the, “Classroom and Cops” program. We will prepare a budget amendment and request Council concurrence and recognition to spend the money before that date.

City Attorney Review: Not applicable

Risk Management Review: Not applicable

Funds Availability (account number): Leave Blank per Finance

C: R. Napoli, Administrative Assistant
J. Snyder, Finance Director

SAH/bma