



# CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

## AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**TO:** Ed Lavallee, City Manager

**THRU:** Tom Mattmuller, Chief

**FROM:** Eric Hill, Captain

**DATE:** July 31, 2019

**MEETING DATE:** August 27, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Utilize the Contraband Forfeiture Fund to Purchase Digital Mobile Device Forensics Software and Equipment

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#### **Background:**

The Venice Police Department seeks approval to utilize the Contraband Forfeiture Fund to purchase, from various vendors, digital mobile device forensics software and equipment.

A significant number of criminal investigations involves a digital mobile device. Mobile device forensics is the science of recovering digital evidence from a mobile device under forensically sound conditions using accepted methods. The evidence obtained from these devices can be critical in a wide range of investigations, especially crimes against children and narcotics. Currently, our surrounding law enforcement agencies graciously accommodate our ever-expanding requests for assistance to analyze our digital evidence, while their own workloads increase. Leveraging these funds for this purpose will improve the effectiveness and timeliness of our investigations. Additionally, a computer forensics lab is already a component of the new police facility. Using the forfeiture funds to purchase this equipment alleviates the need to find other funding sources.

As required by Florida law, Chief Mattmuller certifies that this request complies with the provisions of the Florida Contraband and Forfeiture Act.

**Requested Action:** City Council approval to purchase equipment and software needed to conduct proper forensic analysis of digital mobile devices from various vendors, not to exceed \$26,613.93.

**City Attorney Review:** Approved

**Risk Management Review:** N/A

**Funds Availability:** \$40,000 from the Forfeiture Fund are appropriated for FY 19.