

PUBLIC NOTICE FISCAL YEAR 2023 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (42 U.S.C. 3751(a)) is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states and units of local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas. JAG funds may be used for local initiatives such as additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance and information systems for criminal justice, including any one or more of the following:

- Law enforcement programs.
- Prosecution and court programs
- Prevention and education programs.
- Corrections and community corrections programs.
- Drug treatment and enforcement programs.
- Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.
- Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation).
- Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs.

The Department of Justice requires that the applicant agency accepts certain Certifications and Assurances. These Certifications and Assurances include, but are not limited to the following three items which are summarized as follows: 1) JAG funds may not be used to supplant state or local funds but must be used to increase the amounts of such funds, that would, in the absence of federal funds, be made available for law enforcement activities; 2) The application must be made available for review by the governing body; and, 3) The application must be made public and an opportunity to comment on the application provided to citizens. In addition, the City is required to certify that it complies with prohibitions on certain actions regarding information regarding citizenship and immigration status and complies with 8 U.S.C. §§ 1373 & 1644.

As such, the purpose of this agenda item is to make information regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 JAG application available to the public. Please submit Comments regarding the use of this grant to: allisonnovack@miamibeachfl.gov.

The proposed use of these funds is for the purchase of:

Handheld Narcotics Identification Devices

The Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD), with 459 officers and 98 civilians, strives to prevent crime, enhance public safety and support victims of crimes. MBPD works to provide a competent and well-trained police force, heightened visibility and community-focused policing, mutually beneficial community partnerships and the strategic deployment of advanced technological resources.

According to a recent National Institute of Health (NIH) article, more than 106,000 persons in the U.S. died from drug-involved overdose in 2021, including illicit drugs and prescription opioids. This is the highest point compared to every single year between 1999 and 2021. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), most of these deaths are related to Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid so dangerous that it is involved in more deaths of Americans under 50, including heart disease, cancer, homicide, suicide, and other accidents and so dangerous because only two milligrams, about the size of 5 grains of salt, can be a lethal dose. Florida is not immune to this crisis. According to the Florida Department of Health, in 2020, more than more than 6,150 people died from overdoses involving fentanyl and fentanyl analogs in Florida. This poses several challenges for officers, including:

- 1) Field officers and property and evidence employees exposure to fentanyl. In 2021, Miami-Dade County (MDC) exhibits included 211 ones testing positive for containing Fentanyl.
- 2) Delayed results as seized narcotics currently have to be sent to a lab for testing. As a result, officers confiscating narcotics do not know which narcotics they are seizing and can therefor not charge the defendants properly.
- 3) Costs of field-testing kits that department could or would have to purchase to get faster results than lab tests.

Right now, the MBPD has no means to test drugs in the field. Increasing technological resources is critical to the MBPD's success in reducing crime, enhancing officer safety, and strengthening community safety, well-being and confidence. The MBPD is therefore requesting JAG funding to purchase 3 handheld narcotics identification devices that would help with the three mentioned challenges. The handheld narcotics identification devices currently available are specifically designed for law enforcement non-contact forensic analysis of narcotics, pharmaceutical drugs, cutting agents and precursors. Featuring an intuitive workflow and touchscreen, samples can be nondestructively analyzed through opaque and transparent packaging, with sample threat level displayed prominently for first responders, safety personnel, law enforcement, patrol, and hazmat team to act quickly with minimal sample contact. Utilizing laboratory-proven Raman spectroscopy, which is an analytical technique where scattered light is used to measure the vibrational energy modes of a sample, the handheld device allows users to obtain actionable identification of illicit substances without ever compromising the integrity of the sample or the chain of evidence. Purchasing 3 devices would therefore allow MBPD to fight the distribution and consumption of narcotics more efficiently and in a safer way for officers and employees handling confiscated evidence.

The City's allocation is \$73,581, matching funds are not required for this grant, and MBPD will cover the difference between the allocation awarded and the total costs of the 3 devices.