

**APPROVE AMENDMENT TO
AUTHORIZED POSITION LIST**

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evidence and now increased DNA collection has forced all law enforcement agencies to come up with creative ways to fill the new forensic requirements.

Crime is far below what it was ten or more years ago, despite some crime count fluctuations in the past few years. While the overall numbers are down, GGPD still faces substantial violent and property loss type crimes. In 2007 Garden Grove experienced over 350 Robberies, 645 Aggravated Assaults, nearly 900 Burglaries, 650 Auto Thefts and over 1400 Larcenies. Many of these crime scenes require forensic processing. GGPD's longstanding contract with the Orange County Crime Laboratory covers the most serious crimes (e.g., homicide) but not the more routine (e.g., larceny, burglary).

Over the past year, the Orange County Crime Laboratory has been analyzing DNA evidence at an expanded rate, both due to new laws and the availability of grants and outside funding. This has meant DNA analysis on cases other than homicide. Many more property crime cases have been analyzed, leading to a particularly high identification rate, especially Garden Grove cases.

Because of these high DNA solvability rates, GGPD responded by training sworn officers to collect potential DNA from "routine" crime scenes. While this practice continues to help solve cases, the department's experience has been that such forensic collection takes officers away from priority call response for long periods. It is staff's assessment that Senior Community Service Officers, a civilian position, can best accomplish this routine forensic processing, freeing up sworn officers for priority calls.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There will be negligible financial impact to the City. The cost to add three Senior Community Service Officers for the remainder of this fiscal year is approximately \$86,533.00. The Police Department plans to use funds from vacant positions, specifically, a Records Specialist vacancy that has accumulated \$51,714.00 in salary savings and two part-time Public Safety Dispatcher positions with a salary savings of \$49,050.00.

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COMMUNITY VISION

Adding three Senior Community Service Officers will enhance the Strategic Plan Community Vision of public safety by enabling sworn officers to focus on their primary goal of providing law enforcement services.

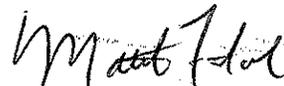
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

It is recommended that the City Council approve the following changes to the Authorized Position List:

1. Delete Position R856, Police Records Specialist
2. Delete Two (2) part-time (1000 hrs/each) Public Safety Dispatchers
3. Add Three (3) full-time Senior Community Services Officers.


JOHN D.R. CLARK
Human Resources Director

Recommended for Approval


Matthew Fertal
City Manager