



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
May 9, 2023

ITEM TITLE:

A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$240,000 from Federal Forfeited Asset Fund (F.A.F.) moneys for law enforcement operations and equipment; the initiation of a Piloted Drone Program by the Coral Gables Police Department; and authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Annual Budget.

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:

Approval.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The Coral Gables Police Department participates with federal law enforcement agencies of the United States Departments of Justice, Treasury and/or Homeland Security in joint law enforcement investigations. The Coral Gables Police Department's participation in those joint federal – local investigations produces federally seized funds. At the discretion of the United States Attorney General under United States Statute: 18 U.S.C. Section 981 (e)(2), and 21 U.S.C. Section 881 (e)(1)(A) and (e)(3)(b), the Coral Gables Police Department may lawfully receive equitable shares of the federally seized funds at the conclusion of the legal proceedings.

The “*Guide to Equitable Sharing for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies*” by the United States Department of Justice provides that the equitably shared forfeited asset funds resulting from the participation of a local agency in investigations with Federal law enforcement agencies may be utilized by the participating local agency for law enforcement operations and equipment.

The Coral Gables Police Department has identified a need to initiate a Piloted Drone Program that will implement the use of drones to assist the agency in locating missing persons, identifying suspects, responding to in-progress crimes, and enhance security capabilities at special events. In addition, this equipment can be used to assess scenes of major car accidents, fires, or other natural disasters before first responders arrive. This program will increase the efficiency of the agency's response and provide additional capabilities not currently available.

City leadership have reviewed, vetted, and approved the Coral Gables Chief of Police's request to encumber and expend as needed the available forfeited asset funds via memorandum dated April 21, 2023.

An amendment to the Fiscal year 2022-2023 annual budget is required to recognize the forfeiture funds as revenue and appropriating such funds to put toward the cost of the items described above.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (If Applicable)

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
1.	\$ 240,000.00	673-5130-521-8004	Federal Forfeited Asset Funds

Total:	\$ 240,000.00	APPROVED BY: Diana Gomez Finance Director
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APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney	Assistant City Manager	City Manager

ATTACHMENT(S):

**FAF Summary Memorandum
Resolution for Piloted Drone Program**