

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Law Enforcement Trust Fund Expenditures

DEPARTMENT: Sheriff's Office **DIVISION:** _____

AUTHORIZED BY: Sheriff Eslinger **CONTACT:** Penny Fleming **EXT.** 6617

Agenda Date 12/20/05 **Regular** **Consent** **Work Session** **Briefing**
Public Hearing – 1:30 **Public Hearing – 7:00**

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Approval by the Board of County Commissioners to fund \$20,750.00 from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund for the following: (1) \$2,500. funding in support of the State Attorney's anti-crime initiative "Rap Against Violence" contest; (2) \$16,000 "Take Stock in Children" Mentoring and Scholarship Program; \$750. Seminole Community College on behalf of one selected student; and (3) \$1,500 "Retro Bill" performance in Seminole County.

BACKGROUND:

(1) The Seminole County Sheriff's Office is requesting expenditure from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund, in the amount of \$2,500 to provide funding in support of the State Attorneys' anti-crime initiative "Rap Against Violence" contest. This contest, which is also funded by the State Attorney's Office, CrimeLine, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and both the Brevard and Seminole County Weed and Seed Programs will result in the production of studio quality CD's that will be distributed free throughout the 18th Judicial Circuit. In addition, Brighthouse Networks will run public service announcements featuring winning entries accompanied by video and rap music station 102 JAMZ will feature winning entries on the radio beginning in January 2006.

The purpose of the contest is to actively encourage and enlist youths under the age of eighteen to produce high quality rap music with a message of reducing violent crimes, specifically those that employ use of a firearm. It is the hope of all participants funding this contest that by utilizing this popular form of music that violent crimes committed with firearms will be reduced within the Judicial Circuit. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office supports this innovative program and desires to be an active participant in funding the contest.

Reviewed by:
Co Atty: _____
DFS: _____
Other: _____
DCM: _____
CM: _____
File No. 5004

This request complies with Chapter 932.7055(4)(a), Florida State Statutes. The State/Local Forfeiture Fund Cash Balance prior to this commitment is: \$44,389.02.

(2) Since 1995, the Sheriff's Office has utilized Law Enforcement Trust Fund money to recognize one graduating student from each high school in Seminole County; a program referred to as the "Good Student Incentive Program".

Beginning in FY 2002/03, the Sheriff's Office redefined the "Good Student Incentive Program" by joining the "Take Stock in Children" Mentoring and Scholarship Program administered by The Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools, Inc. This program provides deserving low income, at risk students in Seminole County with an opportunity to earn a full scholarship to a college or vocational school. Students are selected for the program in middle school and the student and their parents must sign a contract upon being selected for the program, agreeing to stay drug and crime free, maintain satisfactory grades and exhibit good behavior in school. Selected students are also assigned a mentor, a program volunteer, who meets with the child weekly from middle school through the completion of high school. The mentor becomes a tutor, role model and advisor to the student and helps build the child's foundation of basic values.

The "Take Stock in Children" program has been in place for several years and is considered a huge success. Funding for the program comes from both public and private sources. The Sheriff's Office has been so impressed with the success of the program that it has decided to once again contribute \$16,000 in Law Enforcement Trust Fund money to the program this fiscal year. The donated funds represent \$2,000 towards the scholarship program for each of the eight Seminole County High Schools. The Sheriff's Office will also continue to fund \$750 towards one selected Seminole Community College student, said funds typically matched by the State or the college.

(3) The Seminole County Sheriff's Office is requesting an expenditure, from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund, in the amount of \$1,500 to provide funding assistance for the April 17th "Retro Bill" performance in Seminole County.

Retro Bill is a nationally recognized children's advocate and is presently the most in demand school assembly performer in the United States. He is known to millions of fans as the "Official D.A.R.E. Safety Buddy" and the "King of Safety and Self Esteem" Retro Bill's Mission is to inspire children from kindergarten through high school. He is a "Red Ribbon" assembly performer, a "National Risk-Watch Program Safety" presenter, and a "Character Counts" presenter who delivers topics ranging from the danger of drugs, alcohol and tobacco to the six pillars of good character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

Retro Bill will be appearing at the Sanford Civic Center on April 17, 2006 for two (2) fifty minute shows. Schools that will be attending include Heathrow, Wilson, Geneva, Walker, Bentley, Hamilton, Midway and Red Bug. Student transportation will be provided at a nominal cost (\$2.00 per student) by the Seminole County School Board. Funds requested from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund will assist in funding the costs of the performances, ensuring that school children will not be charged to attend the performances.

This request complies with Chapter 932.7055(4)(a), Florida State Statutes. The State/Local Forfeiture Fund Cash Balance prior to this commitment is: \$44,389.02.