

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	June 5, 2023
Action Required:	Appropriation of Funding
Presenter:	Michael Kochis, Police Chief
Staff Contacts:	Holly Bittle, Budget and Management Analyst Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Title:	<b>Appropriating Funds for Virginia Department of State Police (VSP) - Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) Program - \$4,000 (2nd reading)</b>

### **Background**

The Virginia Department of State Police's (VSP) Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) program is co-sponsoring the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (SEIAATI) Vehicle Crimes Conference in Virginia Beach, held in June 2023. The Virginia State Police HEAT program was established in 1992 to educate citizens and law enforcement about the theft of vehicles and vehicle parts. The Southeast Regional Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators' objectives are to provide for the exchange of technical information and new developments and to cooperate with all law enforcement agencies and associations who are engaged in the prevention and suppression of automobile theft and related offenses.

### **Discussion**

These grant funds will reimburse expenses up to \$4,000 for three detectives of the Charlottesville Police Department to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (SEIAATI) Vehicle Crimes Conference. These detectives will learn new skills and techniques for the criminal investigation of motor vehicle thefts. Case study seminars and hands-on demonstrations at the conference will highlight current and emerging trends and prevention strategies.

There were 71 reported incidents of motor vehicle theft in 2020. However, reported motor vehicle thefts doubled to 149 in 2021, and rose again to 168 in 2022.

Notification of award approval was received on March 23, 2023, for reimbursement up to \$4,000.

### **Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan**

This project supports Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan, to be a Healthy and Safe City.

### **Community Engagement**

Not applicable

**Budgetary Impact**

This has no impact on the General Fund. No local match is required, and the funds will be expensed and reimbursed to a Grants Fund.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends approval and appropriation of grant funds.

**Alternatives**

If these grants funds are not appropriated, the Police Department will need to use departmental funds to send three officers to the Southeast Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators Conference.

**Attachments**

1. VPS HEAT Grant Appropriation Resolution