


# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

**Thru:** John Leach, Municipal Administrator 

**From:** Robert Baty, Police Chief

**Date:** August 30, 2022

**Subject:** **Approval of Application for The FFY 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Jag) Program pass through grant with the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety Division of Administrative Services Grants Office.**

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### Background

The Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program provides grant funding that allows states and local governments to perform a broad range of enforcement activities to prevent and control crime. The grant funds provide states and agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and use the JAG funds where they are needed most. The State of Alaska and the Sitka Police Department have determined that these funds should be used to employ a Sitka Police Officer who will participate in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program (HIDTA) and Southeast Alaska Cities against Drugs task force (SEACAD). Sitka has been using JAG funds for this purpose off and on for over a decade.

HIDTA, created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, provides assistance to Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.

SEACAD is a law enforcement and prosecution collaborative that shares the common goal of addressing drug and violent crime problems in Southeast Alaska. SEACAD enhances the Sitka Police Departments ability to share intelligence and coordinate enforcement activities across jurisdictional boundaries resulting in the more efficient use of resources.

The Police Department was made aware of the grant by the State on 8/24/22 with the application due on 8/30/22. The Police Department submitted the grant application on 8/26/22 but can pull the application if the resolution to apply is not approved.

**Analysis**

This year's grant request of \$146,616.00 will pay the entire personnel cost of one Sitka Police Officer for a year. The Police Officer will be assigned to perform drug investigations in Sitka as part of HIDTA and SEACAD. These funds can be used to fund an unassigned officer position as the JAG drug officer position, without creating a new FTE.

**Fiscal Note**

This is a non-matching grant. The grant would pay for the base salary of the officer including all fringe benefits.

**Recommendation**

Approve this Resolution authorizing the Municipal Administrator to apply for this grant and execute it should it be awarded.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM FOR A PASS-THROUGH GRANT WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES GRANTS OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Justice Assistance Grant program is an important source of revenue that has funded a Sitka Police Officer dedicated to addressing the manufacture, transportation, and sale of illegal drugs in Sitka and Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka Police Department seeks to again obtain financial assistance to fund the personnel costs of a Sitka Police Officer position to participate in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program (HIDTA) and the Southeast Alaska Cities Against Drugs task force (SEACAD); and

WHEREAS, with this application, the JAG program will provide full funding for the personnel costs of a Sitka Police Officer to enforce laws related to the illegal manufacturing, distribution, and use of illegal drugs in Sitka.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka that the Administrator is authorized to apply for and execute the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program pass-through grant with the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety Division of Administrative Services Grants Office.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

Kevin Knox, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> and final reading: 9/13/2022

Sponsor: Administrator