

**Brighton**

# Peace Officer Mental Health Support

CITY COUNCIL MEETING -

City Staff Representative: Doug Imfeld, Commander Support Services

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## Overview and Background

- On April 4, 2017, Governor Hickenlooper signed into law House Bill 17-1215 Concerning Mental Health Support for Peace Officers. The bill amended Colorado Revised Statute § 24-32-3501 (C.R.S.) to create a grant program within the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for Peace Officer Mental Health Support. The POMH program supports a wide range of behavioral health support services for peace officers and peace officer immediate family members.
- Brighton Police Department has applied and utilized these grant funds since 2019
- Grant funds are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis until exhausted
  - Fiscal year 2022 - 2023 authorized a total of \$7,500,000.00 in funds
- The program was suspended earlier in 2022 and no funds were available for use by the department.

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## Proposed 2022 - 2023 Fund Application

- Department requesting \$55,000.00
  - \$30,000.00 for mental health provider officer and immediate family visits
  - \$15,000.00 for 24 hr. officer wellness app
  - \$5,000.00 for co-responder juvenile mental health crisis support
  - \$2,500.00 peer support team supervision and critical incident debriefs
  - \$2,500.00 training, wellness webinars, peer support team education
- Application window opened for 1 month and closes on October 31, 2022

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## Grant Fund Usage since 2021

- Department awarded \$60,000.00
- Department executed approximately \$36,000.00 of the total \$60,000.00 awarded:
  - 215 mental health provider officer visits
  - 50 alternative wellness office visits
  - 15 department peer support and wellness webinars and trainings
  - 7 critical incident debriefs

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## Why the Increase in the Funding Request

- Officers have shown increasing willingness to seek out counseling
- Prior to this year immediate family members were unable to access counseling services with these funds. This created a gap where the officer received support but not the family. We anticipate an increase and counseling with this expansion to the program.
- The addition of a 24 hr. wellness app on officers and family members phones is \$15,000.00 per year.
- Partnering with District 27J to provide co-response to juveniles in crisis during the non-school months as the in-school counseling support they had been receiving is unavailable.

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## Options for City Council

- Brighton City Council has the following options in this matter:
  - Approve and authorize application submission for \$55,000.00 in Colorado Department of Local Affairs managed grant funds for Peace Officer Mental Health Support.
  - Disapprove and do not authorize application submission.

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