



2022 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
GRANT

CITY OF POMPANO BEACH/
BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE

\$72,856

2022 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

City of Pompano Beach – Broward Sheriff’s Office

**PROJECT NAME: Pompano Beach Gun Initiative – Reducing Gun Violence and Gun
Related Crimes**

The 2022 JAG allocation for the Broward Sheriff’s Office Pompano Beach District will be used to launch the **Pompano Beach Gun Initiative** to reduce gun related crimes in Pompano Beach. Grants funds will also be used to educate the community on gun violence and gun safety through community events. The **Pompano Beach Gun Initiative** will entail increased enforcement activity guided by a crime analysis made possible with JAG funds. There is a growing community concern regarding gun violence in certain residential areas in the city. The JAG funds will greatly assist in achieving our goal of combating violent crime and reducing the fear of crime throughout the city. The Goals and Objectives to be achieved from the JAG 2022 are:

- Violent Crime Reduction
- Violent Crime Prevention
- Strengthened Community Relations

Description of the Issue

The City of Pompano Beach is located in Broward County, Florida, United States, along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean just north of Fort Lauderdale. The nearby Hillsboro Inlet connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Intracoastal Waterway. The city is approximately 24.71 square miles with access to the Atlantic Ocean, numerous parks, nature preserves, and large business communities. The City of Pompano Beach is diverse and is becoming a destination attraction for single persons and families

seeking a permanent residence in south Florida. It is estimated that the city's population has grown to 111,348 (2021).

Unfortunately, there has been a steady increase in gun related crimes over the past four years. The statistics are as follows:

- July 1st 2018 – June 30th 2019: 258 Aggravated Battery/Assaults 89 firearm involved
- July 1st 2019 – June 30th 2020: 275 Aggravated Battery/Assaults 93 firearm involved
- July 1st 2020 – June 30th 2021: 273 Aggravated Battery/Assaults 130 firearm involved
- July 1st 2021 – June 30th 2022: 336 Aggravated Battery/Assaults 174 firearm involved

This represents a 30.2 % total increase in aggravated battery/assaults with a 95.5 % increase in aggravated battery/assaults while using a firearm.

Grant funds are requested to fund staff overtime for the **Pompano Beach Gun Initiative**. We are proposing to purchase educational materials and tables for community events. These events will assist in building community partnerships.

Project Design and Implementation

The Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Pompano Beach District will implement Operation the **Pompano Beach Gun Initiative**, with the purpose of addressing gun related crimes. This operation will assist in achieving its overall goal of improving the quality of life for its residents and making Pompano Beach a safer community. The objective of the operation is to immediately and significantly reduce gun violence and shooting incidents through tactics that lessen causal factors known to lead to violent encounters and shooting incidents.

The strategic planning process for this operation begins with the Broward Sheriff's Office Pompano Beach District Mission statement, which is to safeguard the lives and property of the people served, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety, while

working with the diverse community to improve quality of life. The Pompano Beach District's mandate is to serve, while maintaining the highest ethical standards to ensure public confidence. The District is committed to proactively engaging and interacting with homeowners and civic associations, as well as other interested groups to meet their goals.

The Pompano Beach District objectives are to safeguard the lives and property of the Pompano Beach residents and visitors by providing comprehensive police services of the utmost quality, while building strong relationships with the community through flexibility of assignment and personalized service. District personnel will provide the highest quality service to all persons they come in contact with. This will be accomplished by continual interaction and solicitation of feedback from the community.

City of Pompano Beach stakeholders, which include elected officials, business owners, community activist, and residents have voiced their concerns during community events, homeowner's association, and City of Pompano Beach commission meetings about the impact of gun related crimes on their community. BSO attends all of these meetings. These concerns coincide with statistical data captured by crime analysis using a multitude of technologies, to include RMS (Records Management System), CAD (computer aided dispatch), Shot Spotter, and a newly implemented RTCC (Real Time Crime Center). Analytical data has helped us in deploying resources to specific locations where we can have the most impact in reducing violent crime. Therefore, we are constantly adapting to where the data places us, enforcement wise.

The **Pompano Beach Gun Initiative** will utilize a multi-pronged approach, and one strategy to be implemented is increased enforcement, and high police presence to specifically focus on high crime pockets within the identified problem areas. The BSO Pompano Beach District's Community Outreach Response and Enforcement Team (CORE) and Crime Suppression Team

(CST) will conduct directed patrols in areas dictated by recent crime analysis. Directed patrols will focus on high visibility walkthroughs and traffic stops within specified regions. These efforts aim to deter gun violence by sending a message of increased presence to those individuals that are most likely to commit these offenses. Both CST and CORE have a multitude of responsibilities within the Pompano Beach district, therefore overtime hours must be made available to accommodate the **Pompano Beach Gun Initiative**.

Another strategy of the **Pompano Beach Gun Initiative** will be community outreach and education. The BSO Pompano Beach District Community Affairs Team and CORE unit will attend community events within the City of Pompano Beach, where they will distribute educational brochures to citizens. The BSO Pompano Beach District in conjunction with the City of Pompano Beach will hold “Gun Buyback” events throughout the city. Grant funds will be utilized to staff the community outreach events and to purchase the educational brochures. The events will be advertised through social media and message boards.

Capabilities and Competencies

The City of Pompano Beach contracts law enforcement services through the Broward County Sheriff’s Office. The Broward County Sheriff’s Office provides all law enforcement services for the city including road patrol, criminal investigations, school resources officers, and traffic enforcement.

The operation will be overseen by Captain Martin Hedelund, who possesses 33 years of law enforcement experience in a variety of capacities thorough his years of service. He has served the residents of Pompano Beach for the majority of his tenure. He has distinct and intimate knowledge of the City of Pompano Beach.

The Pompano Beach Community Outreach Response and Enforcement Team (CORE) was specifically designed to deal with quality of life issues, special events, special projects within the BSO Pompano Beach District. CORE assists with tackling “hot spots” based on current crime trends. CORE has participated in several community events in the past.

The Pompano Beach Crime Suppression Team’s (CST) purpose is to suppress street crimes including violent crimes, and narcotics related violent crimes. They receive monthly tactical training. CST has successfully conducted short term and long term investigations, where multiple firearms have been seized.

The BSO Pompano Beach District is currently utilizing Shot Spotter technology to immediately respond to in progress shootings. Shot Spotter consists of microphones placed throughout the city that record gun fire. Once gun fire is detected, deputies are immediately dispatched to a specific radius containing the location of shootings.

Plan for Collecting Data

Deputies assigned to the grant during enforcement activity will be required to document their daily activities, such as citizen contacts, proactive patrols, field contact and arrests. Crime analysis will be conducted using RMS and CAD will be plotted to include levels of incident occurrences. The categories will include firearm related Aggravated Battery incidents, Aggravated Assault incidents, Murder and Weapons Offenses. During “gun buybacks”, the number of firearms received will be recorded. At community events, BSO will solicit feedback from stakeholders and community members about the safety of their neighborhoods and quality of life issues. These metrics will be combined into monthly reports to track the ongoing success of the operation with the goals of violent crime reduction, violent crime prevention and strengthened community

relations. All programmatic and fiscal reports will be submitted quarterly through BJA's Performance Management Platform.

Disclosure of Pending Applications:

The City of Pompano Beach does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded assistance that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation or that will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation.

Disclosure of High Risk Status:

The City of Pompano Beach is not identified as a "High Risk Status" in accordance with grant guidelines.

Disclosure of Lobbying:

The City of Pompano Beach is not or has not been involved in lobbying regarding this application.

Local Governing Body Review:

The City of Pompano Beach will forward proof that this application will be reviewed by its Commission.