



Sheriff Eric Flowers

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Joseph E. Flescher
Indian River County Board of County Commissioners
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Chairman Flescher,

Please allow this letter to serve as a request to be added to the Constitutional Officers and Governmental Agencies portion of the June 8, 2021 BCC agenda. Indian River County Sheriff's Office is requesting permission to apply for the Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S) Hiring Program Grant. This grant, if approved, will provide funds to hire up to nine (9) additional sworn deputies.

The award will cover up to 75 percent of the entry-level salary and fringe benefits for each approved position for a three-year period. There is a minimum of 25 percent local cost match (cost share) requirement. The maximum federal share per officer position is \$125,000 over the three-year period (unless a local match waiver is requested and approved). The IRCISO is requesting nine (9) deputy positions which brings a total cost of \$575,548.20 annually calculated at the current base rate of a new hire deputy. The COPS – Hiring Grant would cover 75%, \$431,661.15 annually with the agency paying 25%, \$143,887.05 annually. The cost savings over the three (3) year period would be approximately \$1,294,983.45.

Please note that this award does not supplant the budget request for FY21/22. The additional deputies this award will provide were not in the budget due to the cost restraints.

Should you have any questions, please contact Grant Specialist, Wendy Gardiner, at 772-978-6214. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Flowers".

Eric Flowers
Sheriff

EF/wag

