



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 08/03/2021

ITEM NO: 17

DATE: July 22, 2021
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Authorize the Town Manager to Execute a Joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement with Santa Clara County Law Enforcement Agencies for Participation and Services Provided by the Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team (SCCSET) Task Force from July 1, 2021 TO June 30, 2031.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Town Manager to execute a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with Santa Clara County Law Enforcement Agencies for participation and services provided by the Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team (SCCSET) task force from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2031.

BACKGROUND:

The SCCSET task force is a multi-agency task force comprised of law enforcement officers from different agencies within the Santa Clara County. Investigators assigned to SCCSET assist participating jurisdictions in the investigation of complex major criminal investigations. The mission of SCCSET is to promote interagency collaboration to prevent, suppress, and combat the impact of violent and career criminals, Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS)/AB109 offenders, major narcotic offenders, human trafficking offenders, criminal organizations, gangs, firearms traffickers, and other significant crimes to increase public safety in Santa Clara County.

PREPARED BY: CLINTON TADA
POLICE CAPTAIN

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, Police Chief, and Finance Director

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BACKGROUND (continued):

Historically, the Police Department participated in SCCSET with the contribution of an Officer assigned to the task force. Although, due to staffing constraints and vacancies, the Police

Department has not assigned an officer to SCCSET full-time since 2018. Over the past twenty years, SCCSET has been a valuable resource for the Police Department and Town, aiding with the investigation and successful prosecution of a multitude of major complex criminal investigations and tactical operations. In addition, participation in the task force has provided an opportunity for employee professional growth and development, providing experience in multi-faceted investigations, as well as tactical and covert operations that Department members would likely not get otherwise.

The SCCSET task force has been in existence for over twenty years with participating representatives from all law enforcement agencies within the County. Initially SCCSET was overseen by the State of California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE). In 2015, the State disbanded BNE and rather than lose a valuable County-wide asset, the Santa Clara County Police Chiefs' Association voted to maintain SCCSET as a self-funded task force with the City of Campbell and Campbell Police Department as the host agency. In July 2021, Campbell Police Department developed a formal MOU for the SCCSET task force and all participating agencies within the Santa Clara County.

DISCUSSION:

Approval of this item would include Los Gatos in a new MOU agreement for Santa Clara County Law Enforcement Agencies related to the services, responsibilities, costs, and provisions between the SCCSET Task Force and individual participating law enforcement agencies.

On March 11, 2021 the Santa Clara County Police Chiefs' Association (SCCPCA) voted in favor of creating a funding source for SCCSET. The County Chiefs approved that Participating Agencies who participate in the Task Force by assigning a minimum of one personnel would contribute \$5,000 annually, and those Participating Agencies who do not assign a minimum of one personnel to the Task Force would contribute \$10,000 annually. These funds paid by the Participating Agencies to the City of Campbell would be used to offset the cost of SCCSET operational expenses. The following agencies are participating agencies in the new SCCSET task force MOU:

City of Campbell
City of San Jose

City of Santa Clara
City of Mountain View

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DISCUSSION (continued):

City of Sunnyvale	City of Milpitas
City of Gilroy	City of Palo Alto
City of Los Altos	City of Morgan Hill
Santa Clara County Sheriff	Santa Clara County District Attorney
Santa Clara County Probation	CA State Alcohol Beverage Control
CA State Parole	CA Highway Patrol
San Jose State University Police	

Agencies that do not participate with SCCSET task force may jeopardize their ability to obtain additional support efforts by the SCCSET task force when necessary.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with all Santa Clara County Law Enforcement Agencies for participation and services provided by the Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team (SCCSET) task force from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2031. As a participating agency of this MOU, staff will determine the assignment or non-assignment of personnel to SCCSET based on staffing levels.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact may vary year to year or in total for the duration of this MOU, based on the participation and/or assignment of an Officer at the SCCSET task force. Annual costs for participating agencies with an Officer assigned to SCCSET is \$5,000 annually, and participating agencies without an officer assigned to SCCSET is \$10,000 annually. There are sufficient funds pre-programmed in the Police Department FY 2021/22 Operating Expenditures Budget to offset these annual costs. At this time the Town would pay the \$10,000 fee for FY 2021/22 given current staffing and anticipated retirements later this year.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachment:

1. Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team (SCCSET) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement