




Interoffice Memorandum

March 1, 2019

AGENDA ITEM

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director 
Planning, Environmental and Development Services Department

CONTACT PERSON: **Jason Reynolds, AICP, Administrator**
Neighborhood Services Division
(407) 836-5547

SUBJECT: March 26, 2019 – Consent Item
March 2019 Nonprofit Safety Grant

Chapter 775.033, Florida Statutes allows for the creation of a Crime Prevention Fund, funded by fines on criminal activity, to further crime prevention and public safety initiatives. Pursuant to County Ordinance 98-01, Orange County Government created a local Crime Prevention Fund. Subsequently, County Ordinance 02-02 clarified the funds were to be used for local crime prevention and public safety initiatives. Locally, the Crime Prevention Fund supports the Safe Neighborhoods Program, Orange Blossom Trail Safe Neighborhood, Pine Hills Neighborhood Improvement (NID), and the Non-Profit Safety Grant.

The Neighborhood Services Division administers the Non-Profit Safety Grant, which provides funds up to \$10,000 to non-profit organizations to implement crime prevention and public safety related projects and initiatives in Orange County. Upon approval, the non-profit organization must implement the project/initiative and then be reimbursed by Orange County Government.

After a detailed review of each grant application, the Neighborhood Services Division staff forwarded four applications to the Neighborhood Grants Advisory Board (NGAB) for review on February 28, 2019.

The NGAB is recommending approval of the Lighthouse Central Florida, Inc., Life Concepts, Inc. DBA Quest, Volunteers for Community Impact, Inc., and W.E. Freeman Outreach Center, Inc. Non-Profit Safety Grants for March 2019 in the total amount of \$35,000 (see attachment A). The grant requests are displayed in greater detail in Attachments B through E.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of Neighborhood Grants Advisory Board's recommendation of Non-Profit Safety Grants to Lighthouse Central Florida, Inc. (\$10,000), Life Concepts, Inc. DBA Quest (\$10,000), Volunteers for Community Impact, Inc. (\$10,000), and W.E. Freeman Outreach Center, Inc. (\$5,000). All Districts.

JVW/JR/kj
Attachments

Non-Profit Grant Applications (March 2019)					
Organization	Description of the Projects	Requested Amount	NGAB Recommendation	Local Police Review	Sheriff's Review
Lighthouse Central Florida, Inc.	Self-defense program for the blind and visually impaired	\$10,000	Approved	Yes	Yes
Life Concepts, Inc. DBA Quest	Swimming lessons for children with developmental disabilities	\$10,000	Approved	N/A	Yes
Volunteers for Community Impact, Inc.	Distribute weather radios to low income senior citizens	\$10,000	Approved	N/A	Yes
W.E. Freeman Outreach Center, Inc.	Anger management classes for 12 to 17 year olds	\$5,000	Approved	N/A	Yes
	Total Request	\$35,000			

JVW/JR/kdj
 Attachments

Non-Profit Safety Grant Profile

Organization Name: Lighthouse Central Florida, Inc.	Request Amount: \$10,000
Commission District: Various	Matching Amount: N/A
Municipality Jurisdiction: N/A	Total Project Cost: \$10,000
Property Ownership: Private	OCSO Support Letter: Yes

Summary: For 43 years, Lighthouse Central Florida, Inc. (LCF) has been the only provider of vision rehabilitation services in the tri-county area (Orange, Osceola & Seminole) for people ages birth through seniors. Their clients are blind and vision impaired (BVI) and are legally viewed as vulnerable members of society. It is estimated that over 45,000 Central Floridians live with vision difficulty. Orange County accounts for 58 percent of people in Central Florida who are living with blindness and vision impairments (Prevalence of Visual Impairment in Florida by County, Florida Agencies Serving the Blind, Oct. 2018).

LCF is proposing to implement the 1 Touch Project™, the first comprehensive self-defense program designed specifically for people who are BVI and those people legally viewed as vulnerable members of society. The program teaches hands-on self-defense techniques for dealing with assaults, aggressive behavior, and bullying.

Non-Profit Safety Grant Profile

Organization Name: Life Concepts, Inc. DBA Quest	Request Amount: \$10,000
Commission District: Various	Matching Amount: N/A
Municipality Jurisdiction: N/A	Total Project Cost: \$10,000
Property Ownership: Private	OCSO Support Letter: Yes

Summary: For over 50 years, Life Concepts, Inc. DBA Quest (“Quest”) has supported Central Floridians with developmental and intellectual disabilities by offering choices and opportunities to live, learn, work, and play. Quest’s mission, through quality and innovation, is to build communities where people with disabilities achieve their goals.

Nationally, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2017, drowning is second to birth defects for death in children 1-4 years of age. Quest would like to use these funds to aid in their mission through their Quest Swim program. This program was designed in response to an urgent, unmet need for specialized aquatic-based safety therapy for children with developmental disabilities to prevent drowning, near drowning, and other water-related accidents too common in this population.

Non-Profit Safety Grant Profile

Organization Name: Volunteers for Community Impact, Inc.	Request Amount: \$10,000
Commission District: Various	Matching Amount: N/A
Municipality Jurisdiction: N/A	Total Project Cost: \$10,000
Property Ownership: Private	OCSO Support Letter: Yes

Summary: Volunteers for Community Impact, Inc. (VCI) was created in 1974, becoming the sponsor of the Foster Grandparent Program of Central Florida and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in Orange County. VCI made this transition to show how it wanted to endlessly impact the Central Florida community, its mission being to build relationships that add value to the community by utilizing the experience of caring individuals through high impact service.

VCI proposes to purchase and distribute 250+ Natural Disaster radios. The radios will be National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) certified radios with features designed for hurricanes and other natural disasters. The radios will access not only AM/FM, but also NOAA National Weather Radio frequencies.

VCI will distribute the radios to Orange County residents, with at least 130 of radios being distributed to low income senior citizens. Some will be distributed to retired and senior volunteers who are not low income, but live in Orange County.

Non-Profit Safety Grant Profile

Organization Name: W.E. Freeman Outreach Center, Inc.	Request Amount: \$5,000
Commission District: Various	Matching Amount: N/A
Municipality Jurisdiction: N/A	Total Project Cost: \$5,000
Property Ownership: Private	OCSO Support Letter: Yes

Summary: W.E. Freeman Outreach Center, Inc. assists many Central Florida communities with outreach to those who are less fortunate and need help. W.E. Freeman Outreach Center proposes to provide court ordered anger management classes for youth 12-17 years of age. The goal is to minimize violence in the community and provide positive reinforcement for teenagers. This program will help teens learn and understand how to navigate through their anger in an acceptable manner.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, youth violence is a serious public health problem that not only affects our youth, but also schools, families, and communities as a whole. The classes are designed to help teens understand what anger is, how to recognize it, and learn different techniques to control it. Empowering teens to build a higher capacity in controlling their reactions while building their confidence will aid in the effort to help decrease violent and disruptive encounters that affect youth, families, and communities.