

State of South Carolina
Office of the Solicitor
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit



Scott R. Hixson
Chief Deputy Solicitor

REPLY TO ☒

P.O. BOX 1276
CONWAY, SC 29528
843-915-5460
FAX: 843-915-6461

Alicia A. Richardson
Deputy Solicitor

REPLY TO ☐

P.O. BOX 1688
GEORGETOWN, SC 29442
843-545-3169
FAX: 843-545-3268

JIMMY A. RICHARDSON, II
Solicitor

May 7, 2020

Dear Sirs or Ma'am:

It has come to our your attention that the Myrtle Beach Police Department (MBPD) through Chief Amy Prock, has applied for funding under the Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative. If awarded the grant would be used to acquire NIBIN equipment and MBPD would serve as a regional NIBIN resource for all Law Enforcement agencies. I am writing you on behalf of the 15th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office to offer our complete support of the grant award to the Myrtle Beach Police Department.

The 15th Judicial Circuit is home to the beautiful beaches known as the Grand Strand, which attracts nearly 19 million visitors a year. Our area is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Unfortunately, a violent criminal element is included in that visiting and expanding permanent population and they bring crime guns with them.

As you are likely aware, there are three agencies with NIBIN equipment and the ability to process ballistics in South Carolina. (Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Lexington County near Columbia and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division in Columbia). Myrtle Beach Police Department currently has a shoot tank and works diligently to encourage area agencies to utilize this valuable resource. Once collected the agencies drive the evidence several hours for

The mission of the Fifteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office is to uphold the public's trust in the pursuit of justice and enforcement of the law.

processing and entry. Earlier this year, MBPD hosted BATF's mobile NIBIN trailer and several area agencies responded to utilize the system, which generated leads in some open cases. That experience made one thing quite clear. The local availability of NIBIN to all agencies in the 15th Judicial Circuit would be indispensable in expeditiously linking casings or weapons recovered in crime scenes here to shooting scenes in other cities or states. These leads could help investigators identify potential shooters faster, perhaps even before they leave the city. That ability would be a tremendous upgrade in the battle to combat and reduce violent crime.

The 15th Circuit Solicitor is responsible for the successful prosecution of those that commit violent crimes in Horry and Georgetown counties. We depend on the investigative work product of our partner law enforcement agencies to complete this mission for the victims and citizens of this community. Forward thinking agencies such as the Myrtle Beach Police Department, faced with ever more mobile, sophisticated and violent criminal subjects need to be fully supported and equipped with the latest tools to confront these challenges. Under the leadership of Chief Prock, MBPD already has the "will" to solve such criminal justice problems. We are simply asking that you help support MBPD's mission by awarding this grant which provides at least part of the much needed "way." We believe having access to these tools will result in consistently better investigative work product for all the agencies in the circuit and tangible public safety improvements for all citizens and visitors.

If you need anything else, please don't hesitate to contact me at (843) 915-8607.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Hixson".

Scott R. Hixson
Chief Deputy Solicitor, 15th Judicial Circuit
(Horry and Georgetown Counties)

Special Assistant United States Attorney,
District of South Carolina

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HOBSON H. MILTON

Georgetown Police Department
Chief of Police, Kelvin Waites
Office: (843) 545-4302
Fax: (843) 520-5848

April 13, 2020

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I am writing you on behalf of the Georgetown Police Department in support of the Myrtle Beach Police Department's proposal for grant funding. This past year, I along with fellow law enforcement executives from throughout the 15th Judicial Circuit of South Carolina (Horry and Georgetown counties) attended a presentation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). The purpose of that presentation was to discuss ways that the ATF-CGIC could create and develop partnerships, and support all agencies in the 15th Judicial Circuit with violent crime reduction.

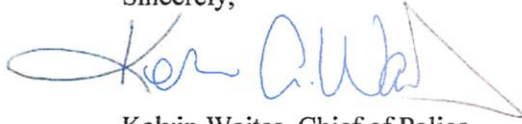
CGIC presented initiatives including crime mapping, intelligence-based policing techniques and an accelerated process to conduct ballistics imaging through the use of an on-site shoot tank. However, the most impactful way that CGIC stated that they could assist our Circuit was through the use of NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network). As you are aware, in South Carolina there are three agencies with NIBIN equipment and the ability to process ballistics (Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Lexington and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division). Currently, the Myrtle Beach Police Department houses a shoot tank available to local agencies, but my agency is still at the limitations of only those agencies that are able to provide ballistics imaging which takes a significant amount of time.

Early this year, the Myrtle Beach Police Department hosted ATF's mobile NIBIN trailer in order to see the need for the use in our area. Several agencies responded throughout the area and utilized the system and several leads were obtained. I have recently been informed by Myrtle Beach Police Chief, Amy Prock, that her agency is applying for grant funding for NIBIN equipment and upon award would be a regional NIBIN site. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I offer my complete support of the grant award to the Myrtle Beach Police Department. I, along with my fellow law enforcement leaders have a great working relationship with the Myrtle Beach Police Department, and all agencies within the 15th Judicial Circuit. My agency would use the NIBIN system if it were established by the Myrtle Beach Police Department.

It is no secret that crime has no jurisdictional boundary in the Grand Strand area. The local availability of NIBIN by all agencies in the 15th Judicial Circuit will allow us to enhance our efforts.

This will help us to continue to work together and combat violent crime by identifying gun crime offenders in an accelerated manner, while saving time, money, and improving multijurisdictional partnerships. If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 843-545-4300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelvin Waite", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kelvin Waite, Chief of Police
Georgetown Police Department



HORRY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dedicated to Providing Comprehensive, Quality Law Enforcement

Joseph R. Hill
Chief of Police

2560 North Main Street, Suite 7 - Conway, SC 29526 - Tel.: 843-915-5350 - Fax: 843-248-1886

April 6, 2020

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I am writing you on behalf of the Horry County Police Department in support of the Myrtle Beach Police Department's proposal for grant funding. This past year, I along with fellow law enforcement executives from throughout the 15th Judicial Circuit of South Carolina (Horry and Georgetown counties) attended a presentation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). The purpose of that presentation was to discuss ways that the ATF-CGIC could create and develop partnerships, and support all agencies in the 15th Judicial Circuit with violent crime reduction.

CGIC presented initiatives including crime mapping, intelligence-based policing techniques and an accelerated process to conduct ballistics imaging through the use of an on-site shoot tank. However, the most impactful way that CGIC stated that they could assist our Circuit was through the use of NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network). As you are aware, in South Carolina there are three agencies with NIBIN equipment and the ability to process ballistics (Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Lexington and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division). Currently, the Myrtle Beach Police Department houses a shoot tank available to local agencies, but my agency is still at the limitations of only those agencies that are able to provide ballistics imaging which takes a significant amount of time.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill", is written over the typed name.

Col. Joseph R. Hill, Chief of Police
Horry County Police Department