



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT



**DEPARTMENT:** Police Department

**MEETING DATE:** September 21, 2004

**PREPARED BY:** Roger W Johnson, Chief of Police

**AGENDA LOCATION:** I-2

**TITLE:** Implementation of "Project Lifesaver" program, and purchase of necessary radio locator equipment in the amount of \$5,300 00

**OBJECTIVE:** To introduce the *Project Lifesaver* program and to propose the purchase of the equipment necessary to implement the program

**BACKGROUND:** A few months ago, Mayor Rob Hammond requested the Police Department evaluate the feasibility of implementing a new program called *Project Lifesaver*. The program is part of a nationwide strategy to provide reliable and rapid response to locate those in the community who are susceptible to wandering from family or care providers. Individuals who could benefit from this program are patients with Alzheimer's or other related disorders, dementia, Down's syndrome and Autism.

Specially trained police rescue teams, equipped with locator devices, are able to track and locate individuals who are outfitted with the special *Project Lifesaver* transmitting wristband and return them safely to their loved ones.

**ANALYSIS:** *Project Lifesaver* has proven effective in Virginia and in other states in locating a number of missing impaired persons. The headquarters for the program is located in Chesapeake, Virginia. The cost of the radio tracking device is \$5,300 and can be purchased through them.

The *Project Lifesaver* wristband, which is worn by the person, is a passive identification bracelet and a one-ounce battery-operated wrist transmitter. It emits an automatic tracking signal every second, twenty-four hours a day. The signal can be tracked on the ground or in the air over several miles. As each wristband has a unique radio frequency, the *Project Lifesaver* search team positively identifies and locates the person who has wandered away from home or a care facility.

The cost of the transmitting bracelet is approximately \$200 a piece and can be purchased by those wishing to participate in the program. The program concept has been brought before the Monrovia Providers Group and they support the idea of bringing *Project Lifesaver* to Monrovia. They also believed that it would be relatively easy to find those willing to donate the cost of a wristband for someone who was unable to afford one.

Training for the Monrovia police officers who will operate the equipment will be provided by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department, which is the lead agency in California. Once officers are trained, a family member or caretaker that had a missing dependent adult or child can simply contact the police department to activate the necessary resources to locate the missing person.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The cost of the Project Lifesaver radio tracking device is \$5,300 and can be purchased using the police department's Expenditure Control Budget savings.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The police department recommends that *Project Lifesaver* be implemented in Monrovia and that the appropriate radio locator equipment be purchased for the program.

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED:** If the Council agrees with the staff recommendation, the appropriate action would be

"A motion to implement *Project Lifesaver* and to purchase the necessary radio locator equipment at a cost of \$5,300 using the police department's Expenditure Control Budget savings."

Roger W. Johnson  
Chief of Police