City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: October 27, 2026

Staff Resources: Jackie Stepp - APD Police Chief

Elise Lewis - APD Financial Business Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the 2027 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Grant funds from the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, on behalf of the Asheville HIDTA branch.

Background:

- The purpose of the HIDTA program is to reduce drug trafficking and especially production in the United States, specifically in areas where drug-related activities are having a significant harmful impact.
- This unit does not focus on, or adopt, simple possession cases, but focuses only on cases that deal in trafficking, manufacturing, and distribution of illegal drugs.
- The Asheville Police Department has been acting as the fiduciary for the Drug Enforcement Agency grant since 2018.
- In 2018 the grant amount was $345,000 but has been reduced over the life of this program down to $160,000 in 2025 and 2026. The 2027 grant amount will not be known until the time of award.
- When expenses are incurred, the fiduciary settles the claims using appropriated City of Asheville funds and then requests a 100% reimbursement from the federal government.
- The Asheville HIDTA is the direct beneficiary of the grant funds and not the Asheville Police Department.
- The Asheville HIDTA comprises members of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, one officer from the Asheville Police Department, and various individuals from the Sheriff's Offices of several Western North Carolina Counties.
- A United States Drug Enforcement Administration supervisor, who is the Asheville HIDTA manager, determines how grant funds will be expended.
- All members of the Asheville HIDTA receive reimbursement for qualified expenses incurred while conducting Asheville HIDTA business.
- The Office of National Drug Control Policy has determined that the City of Asheville is eligible to manage this grant.
- Grant funds are used for overtime, travel, services, and supplies.
- Local and federal authorities track and audit all expenses.

Vendor Outreach:

- None. Funding for this grant is provided by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Fiscally Resilient City

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- N/A

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- Matching funds are not required for this grant.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the 2027 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Grant funds from the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, on behalf of the Asheville HIDTA branch.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for the 2027 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Grant funds from the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, on behalf of the Asheville HIDTA branch.

Whereas, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-17.1 to apply for and receive grants from the federal government, and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

Whereas, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes section 160A-461 and the City of Asheville Grants policy, City Council approval is required to apply for and accept grants from federal agencies; and

Whereas, the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, has determined that the City of Asheville is eligible to receive this grant to act as fiduciary for the Asheville High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) grant, and, if awarded, to act as fiduciary for the Asheville HIDTA.

Read, approved and adopted this 27th day of October, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk