

**FY21 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local**

**City of Albany, N.Y. Application Number A-376056**

**Program / Budget Narrative 2021 JAG**

The City of Albany Police Department (APD) has reviewed the FY2021 JAG program guidance and has decided to utilize its available allocation of \$71,053 on officer operational overtime expenses for the APD's School Dismissal Program & Violent Crime Suppression Program, and 400 QuikClot BTK Belt trauma kits after deducting 3% (\$2,131) towards achieving full compliance with the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data submission requirements under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

**School Dismissal Program:**

The School Dismissal Program is coordinated between the Albany Police Department and the Albany School District to provide safe corridors between students' homes and the schools they attend, while maintaining the quality of life for residents and businesses in the surrounding neighborhoods. The program features deployment of police officers specifically designated to actively patrol areas surrounding the schools to prevent, respond to, and reduce incidents involving students. The Albany School District serves approximately 9,400 students in 19 different facilities throughout the city. School dismissal begins at 2:15pm and finishes at 3:30pm. During this one hour, fifteen minute period, all 9,400 students exit school for home by various means. Although many students are provided some form of vehicular transportation, the urban location and proximity of schools to residential neighborhoods lead the majority of the students to walk. Students therefore travel in large groups through city streets during peak business hours and mounting rush hour traffic. Often, issues, disagreements, and arguments between students erupt

into fighting - sometimes involving the use of weapons – resulting in injuries to students and requiring police involvement. Additionally, incidents of vandalism and groups of students disrupting residents and business owners regularly occur during school dismissal hours. Analysis of Albany Police records indicates that the peak hour for juvenile involvement in criminal activity is 3:00pm – indicating a direct relationship with the dismissal of city schools.

To ensure proper time for communication and response, the APD detail starts at 1 PM and ends at 4 PM. Each day the police supervisor makes contact with the School Resource Officers and the Director of Safe Schools and Violence Prevention for the school district. This communication allows for a proactive response to any potential problems and provides flexibility to respond appropriately. This detail works to curtail issues such as general disruptions to the community by student groups, vandalism, fights, criminal mischief, and weapons possession. Working in tandem with the anti-truancy abatement program, nighttime details pay home visits to students who have been identified as creating a problem in the school/home corridor.

In addition to the daily school dismissal detail, a weekly school safety meeting is held. The meetings rotate throughout different school buildings within the city. The meetings are attended by the police department, probation, school district members, charter school representatives, city school district transportation representatives, CDTA, and, on occasion, PTA representatives. The purpose of these meetings is to share information, problem solve, and to network. Bringing various stakeholders together has proven to be highly beneficial in strategizing to reduce occurrences of crime and increase safety for students and residents. APD will continue working with stakeholders in its school dismissal program to ensure the continued safety of all city students and residents.

Schools directly served by the school dismissal program:

- Albany High School

- The Abrookin Vocational Center
- Harriet Gibbons High School
- The Adult Learning Center (Alternative Placement)
- Philip Livingston Magnet Academy
- Hackett Middle School
- Myers Middle School

**Violent Crime Suppression Initiative:**

The APD's Patrol and Detective Divisions will engage in a violent crime suppression initiative.

The initiative will be divided into two parts: 1) a highly visible patrol presence; and 2) an enhanced investigative initiative. As evidenced by the charts below, Albany saw a substantial increase in confirmed shots fired, shooting incidents, and victims in 2020 when compared to both 2019 and the 5 year average.

Reported Shooting Incidents					
	2019	2020	% Change	5-Year Average	2020 vs 5-Yr Avg.
APD	48	101	110%	37.8	167%

Reported Shooting Victims					
	2019	2020	% Change	5-Year Average	2020 vs 5-Yr Avg.
APD	52	130	150%	43.8	197%

Confirmed Shots Fired					
	2019	2020	% Change	5-Year Average	2020 vs 5-Yr Avg.
APD	124	262	111%	90.4	190%

This dramatic rise in the increase of reported shooting incidents, reported shooting victims, and confirmed shots fired does not have one, singular explanation. Rather, it is due to a variety of complex, interlocking issues, including the effects of COVID-19 on the community as it relates to increased economic instability, decreased volumes of time spent in school or the workplace, and the increased ability to remain anonymous due to masking mandates. As such, it is imperative APD is able to continue its violent crime suppression initiative.

The main focus of the initiative will be during the hours of 8:00 P.M. – 4:00 A.M., as these are the prevailing hours of violent criminal activity according to APD's statistical analysis. Specifically, the majority of shootings have taken place between the hours of 12:00AM – 4:00AM. The initiative will be flexible and come under the direct supervision of the Operational Lieutenants, whose responsibilities will be to provide the initiative with specific direction and place details in strategic areas of deployment. Detail deployment will remain flexible as responses will depend on real time crime activity in the city. Deployment will be at least partially determined by the Patrol Commanders based on shots fired crime mapping and quality of life calls from the previous 24 hours.

All strategies employed will meet the goals of the program: reducing violent crime, enhancing department response to violent crime, and providing the community with an improved quality of life. This initiative has previously been employed with success, but recent funding cuts have put the program in peril of discontinuation. This is particularly problematic as, indicated by the above charts, violent crime rates between 2019 and 2020 have risen exponentially and posed a significant danger to Albany's communities.

The initiative will conduct the following types of activities in the identified areas:

- Traffic checkpoints
- Warrant sweeps
- Parole/Probation/Known Offender home visits
- Quality of Life enforcement
- Walk & Talk patrols
- Deployment of the mobile Police Station for community outreach
- Deployment of force multipliers throughout the identified areas
- Strategic enforcement of bicycle laws
- Use of Plate Readers
- Deployment of the Sky Watch Platform
- Abandoned Building/lot sweeps for weapons
- Education/ Crime Prevention through Community Services
- Mounted patrols
- Trespass affidavit activity
- Graffiti clean up
- Code checks
- Work ups on potential addresses of concern to include ROP checks

The Detective Division will provide enhanced investigations on violent crimes, target individuals listed on the “Violent Offender Identification Directive” and increase proactive investigations in areas of concern.

**Equipment – IFAK’s:**

Currently, APD officers are outfitted with a tourniquet as part of their equipment while on patrol. APD will use JAG funding to provide officers with QuikClot BTK Belt trauma kits. There are 340

active officers, however, in order to have a supply of reserve Independent First Aid Kits (IFAKs) APD will purchase 400 total. The kits include gloves, CPR shields, SWAT-T tourniquet, and QuikClot combat gauze, and will be an upgrade upon the current first aid material outfitted to officers. The officer can wear the kit on their duty belt, place it in a pocket on their body armor, or, if chosen, keep the kit in their squad car.

The kit is lightweight, easily transportable, and is designed to quickly stop traumatic bleeding, therefore significantly decreasing rates of grievous injury or loss of life. Furthermore, while outfitted to the officer and available for use upon either the holding officer or fellow member of the APD, belt trauma kits also offer increased medical assistance to crime victims, a citizen in need of CPR, or perpetrators suffering from injury. In light of the recent surge in gun violence effecting the city and its residents, belt trauma kits represent an effective tool for officers when responding to violent incidents. They are particularly necessary as police officers are often the first emergency personnel to respond to crime scenes or other emergency situations. EMS services often must wait before entering a crime scene to ensure their own security and safety. If an APD officer is the first responder, they will be adequately supplied to provide temporary medical attention to those in need until EMS can safely enter the scene and provide the necessary assistance.

### **National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)**

The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) was implemented at the federal level to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement. NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident, including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes. As recommended by professional law enforcement organizations, the FBI has made nationwide implementation of

NIBRS a top priority because NIBRS can provide more useful statistics to promote constructive discussion, measured planning, and informed policing. To increase participation, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has partnered with the Bureau of Justice Statistics on the National Crime Statistics Exchange, working with advocacy groups to emphasize the importance of NIBRS data and its utility, and transitioning the UCR Program to a NIBRS-only data collection by 2021. In addition, the UCR Program has made resources available to help agencies address the cost of transitioning as well as the potential perception that an agency has higher crime levels when NIBRS actually establishes a new baseline that more precisely captures reported crime in a community. The vision for NIBRS is for it to become the law enforcement community's standard for quantifying crime, which will help law enforcement and communities around the country use resources more strategically and effectively. In 2018, approximately 44 percent of U.S. law enforcement agencies that participated in the UCR Program submitted data via NIBRS. Since then, the FBI has received thousands of commitments from law enforcement across the nation to be NIBRS-compliant by 2021. Ultimately, the national transition to NIBRS will further support the mission of the FBI's UCR Program to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management.

As the City of Albany PD has not yet been certified by the FBI as NIBRS compliant, APD will dedicate 3 percent (3%) of its 2021 JAG award toward achieving full compliance with the NIBRS data submission requirements under the UCR program in preparation for the FBI's 2021 NIBRS compliance deadline. The 3% of the FY21 JAG award will fund labor that directly supports and enhances the APD's technical capacity for collecting, processing, and analyzing data reported by personnel within our local law enforcement (LE) agency, and then submitting NIBRS data to the FBI. Based upon the FY2021 JAG Allocation Schedule, APD's 3% set-aside equates to

approximately \$2,100. This is identified within the program budget detail worksheet under the “Other Costs” category.

Performance measures and outcomes for this objective will be assessed by the final level/percent of compliance with enhanced NIBRS standards when grant funding has been exhausted

**Project Identifiers:**

- Community Policing
- Officer Safety
- Violence Violent Crime

**Proposed Performance Measures:**

*School Dismissal:* Analysis of Albany Police records indicates that the peak hour for juvenile involvement in criminal activity is 3:00pm. This includes youths up to and including age 15, who become victims of crime, suspects of crime, or arrested. In addition, calls for police service related to juvenile crime and/or disorder during the school dismissal hours is also increased. The primary goal of the School Dismissal Program is to provide safe corridors between students’ homes and the schools they attend, while maintaining the quality of life for residents and businesses in the surrounding neighborhoods. Objectives of the program are: a) provide high visibility patrol in the areas surrounding schools and along the routes travelled by exiting students; b) Prevent, respond to, and reduce incidents involving students. Performance of the objectives will be measured through analysis of police records of reported incidents involving juveniles, as well as police records of calls for service related to juveniles.

*Violent Crime Suppression Initiative:* Daily mapping and analysis of crime trends, patterns and series will be conducted. Information and intelligence from Field Intelligence Officers, the Criminal Investigations Unit, Patrol, and other agency sources will be compiled by the Information

Coordination Unit and disseminated to members of the department. The information will be utilized to determine tactics and strategic responses, as well as determining effect of the initiative through reduced violent crime reports.

*Equipment - IFAKs:* IFAKs will be provided to APD officers for use, if necessary, on themselves as well as victims, perpetrators, or others in need of medical assistance. 400 IFAKs will be ordered to ensure a surplus of materials that can be drawn from as officers use them in the field. As these are medical kits, performance measures include primarily an enhanced ability to swiftly and adequately respond to injuries in the field. In particular, due to rising rates of gun violence, IFAKs provide officers with enhanced medical assistance.

**Budget:**

*1-Personnel:*

\$41,722 in 2021 JAG funds is proposed to be utilized in year three to provide police officer, detective, and supervisor overtime staffing under the Personnel categories; to support the initiatives as described in the Program / Budget narrative. Funding for civilian and support staff, as well as software, and other expenses for the proposed initiatives has been obtained by leveraging other sources and grants. The funds expended on sworn staffing will permit maximum benefit to these proven initiatives, which would not be possible without the support of JAG assistance.

*2-Equipment – Independent First Aid Kits (IFAK's):*

APD proposes to utilize \$27,200 in 2021 JAG funds toward the purchase and deployment of 400 QuikClot BTK Belt Trauma First-Aid Kits. Currently, officers on patrol are outfitted with a tourniquet. The QuikClot BTK Belt trauma kits provide enhanced medical aid to officers in the

field. APD has determined 400 IFAKs is the necessary amount to both outfit all 340 officers and ensure a usable, dependable surplus as IFAKs are used and in need of replacement. The kits include gloves, CPR shields, SWAT-T tourniquet, and QuikClot combat gauze, and will be an upgrade upon the current first aid material outfitted to officers. The officer can wear the kit on their duty belt, place it in a pocket on their body armor, or, if chosen, keep the kit in their squad car.

*3-National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) three percent (3%) set-aside:*

APD will set-aside \$2,131 (3%) in 2021 JAG funds towards NIBRS initiatives. Software, hardware, and labor that directly support or enhance a state or agency's technical capacity for collecting, processing, and analyzing data reported by local law enforcement (LE) agencies and then submitting NIBRS data to the FBI; training personnel responsible for the state's Incident Based Reporting (IBR) program on receiving, processing, analyzing, and validating incident-based data from local LE agencies in their state; training local agencies in how to collect and submit NIBRS data; and technical assistance for LE agency personnel responsible for (1) managing the agency's crime incident data, (2) processing and validating the data, and (3) extracting and submitting IBR data to the state UCR Program, according to the states, and/or directly to the FBI, according to the NIBRS standard.