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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-20-06

SPONSOR Garcia, M.P. LAST UPDATED _____ HB 69

SHORT TITLE BARELAS COMMUNITY GRAFFITI DETECTIVE SB _____

ANALYST Hadwiger

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$38.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY06	FY07	FY08	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$12.0	\$12.0	\$24.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 69 appropriates \$38 thousand from the general fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for the mid-region council of governments (MRCOG) to employ or contract with a graffiti detective who would coordinate graffiti prevention, investigation, and cleanup in the Barelas community within the City of Albuquerque and in the area contained between Central Avenue SW on the north, Rio Bravo Boulevard SW on the south, Coors Boulevard SW on the west and the Rio Grande on the east in Bernalillo County.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$38 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 would revert to

the general fund. It is not clear if the amount included in this bill would be sufficient to hire a full-time sworn detective. Sworn officers first class earn \$39,520 per year plus benefits or, with benefits, cost more than \$50,000 per year. Deputies first class in the Bernalillo County Sheriff's office earn \$42,439 per year or, with benefits, cost more than \$53,000. These costs could decline if the detective were not sworn or were hired on contract.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to its text, the bill targets graffiti within the City of Albuquerque. As such, it is not clear why it would be beneficial to fund a law enforcement officer in MRCOG, which does not currently operate a law enforcement agency, rather than in the City of Albuquerque. The City currently operates an anti-graffiti program such that placement of funds there would facilitate coordination of efforts.

DFA indicated the graffiti detective can be better described as a graffiti prevention coordinator. This independent contractor would not be required to perform law enforcement duties; rather coordinate with law enforcement officials to prevent future graffiti attacks, as well as act as a liaison between communities and entities with efforts concentrated towards graffiti prevention and cleanup. This individual may also be encouraged to focus on youth awareness and initiate youth programs concerning public art and/or cultural murals. DFA noted that communities affected by this appropriation include areas throughout the City of Albuquerque and the Rio Grande river on the east in Bernalillo County. Because this individual will work in multi-jurisdictional areas (City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County), DFA recommended that the funds be appropriated to the MRCOG for administration.

DFA noted that graffiti attacks continue to increase in the City of Albuquerque and surrounding areas. While state law exists to prosecute offenders, it is difficult to witness attacks and ultimately reduce the number of offenders. Prevention may be a useful tool in reducing the number of offenses. The City of Albuquerque currently has a Clean Cities Department, which deals with graffiti issues. The department performs the tasks of coordinating graffiti cleanup, as well as nuisance abatement. In that capacity, department leaders supports appropriations to assist with their efforts, or provide additional help with graffiti prevention or cleanup-related tasks.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This appropriation will be administered through DFA, who has the capacity to fund and monitor the project.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Why shouldn't Albuquerque or Bernalillo County fund this project? Why are existing resources through the Clean Cities program insufficient for this purpose?

DH/mt