

# City of Galveston



P. O. Box 779 / Galveston, Texas 77553-0779

Date: January 16, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council  
Brian Maxwell, City Manager

From: Kent Etienne Jr., Executive Director of HR & Civil Service

RE: **Consider for approval an increase to the total number of authorized classified civil service Police Officer positions from 127 to 132; a net increase of five (5) officers; making various finding and provisions related to the subject; and providing for an effective date of January 25, 2018.**

## BACKGROUND

1. The Galveston Police Department (“GPD”) has determined that an overall increase in authorized strength of police personnel is necessary to maintain the current level of service provided to the Galveston community.
2. The Police Chief and Command Staff have applied for and been awarded funding in the total amount of \$875,000.00 from the COPS Hiring Program through the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant will be used to fund a total of seven (7) Police Officer positions.
3. In accordance with the City of Galveston Charter and Section 143.021(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, the City Council shall establish the authorized strength of sworn personnel in the Galveston Police Department by ordinance.

## CURRENT SITUATION

1. The City Council’s approval of the FY18 Budget authorized access to funding for two (2) of the seven (7) anticipated, grant-funded positions.
2. Effective October 26, 2017, the City Council increased the authorized strength in accordance with Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code.
3. With consideration to the recent increases to staffing levels, the five (5) additional officers will allow for sufficient support to various divisions within the department. Appropriate allocations will continue in accordance with the provisions of the COPS Hiring Grant over a three (3) year period if approved.

## ISSUES

1. In accordance with the terms set forth in the COPS Grant Application, the City will be responsible for providing a match on an annual basis for funding of the additional positions which totals \$653,979 over a three (3) year period.
2. The approaching Police Civil Service Entrance Exam scheduled for February 2, 2018, would establish a pool of qualified candidates to fill the additional positions if authorized by the City Council.

## RECOMMENDATION

Acceptance of funds and approval of the recommended increase to the authorized strength.

Respectfully submitted,

Kent Etienne Jr.,  
Executive Director of HR & Civil Service