

CITY OF BUCKEYE
Regular Council Meeting
COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

MEETING DATE: 05/19/26	AGENDA ITEM: 4.H. PD - Intergovernmental Agreement - West Valley Sex Trafficking Task Force
DATE PREPARED: 05/14/26	DISTRICT NO.:
STAFF LIAISON: Robert Sanders, Police Chief, rsanders@buckeyeaz.gov, (623) 349-6430	
DEPARTMENT: Police	AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent Agenda Items / New Business

ACTION/MOTION: (This language identifies the formal motion to be made by the Council)
 Council to take action on Resolution No. 45-26 approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Buckeye, City of Avondale, City of Goodyear, and Maricopa County to continue operating the West Valley Sex Trafficking Task Force.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREAS:

A Safe and Sustainable Quality of Life

SUMMARY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Overall, the IGA ensures continued cooperation among West Valley public safety agencies to protect victims, support community safety, and combat sex trafficking through a unified regional approach.

The City of Buckeye, along with the Cities of Avondale and Goodyear and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, seeks approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to continue participation in the West Valley Sex Trafficking Task Force. The Task Force was originally established through a 2023 IGA and is designed as a regional partnership to identify, rescue, and support victims of sex trafficking, while coordinating enforcement efforts against offenders.

The proposed 2026-2027 IGA reaffirms the shared commitment of participating agencies to collaborate on investigations, conduct coordinated operations, provide specialized training, and share resources to address sex trafficking in the West Valley. Each agency assigns personnel, works jointly on investigations, and contributes to a regionally unified response.

The City of Avondale administers grant funding provided through the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), which reimburses eligible costs such as overtime, training, equipment, and investigative activities, subject to available funds. Participating agencies submit documentation to Avondale for reimbursement.

The agreement is effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, and includes standard provisions related to termination, indemnification, insurance, E-Verify compliance, and nondiscrimination. It ensures continued regional cooperation to enhance public safety and support vulnerable victims across West Valley communities.

Participation in the West Valley Sex Trafficking Task Force provides significant regional and community benefits. The IGA strengthens coordination among Buckeye, Avondale, Goodyear, and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, allowing agencies to share resources, training, and investigative expertise to more effectively identify and assist victims of sex trafficking.

By collaborating through a unified task force, the City of Buckeye enhances its ability to support victim-centered responses, improve communication with service providers, and participate in proactive operations aimed at reducing trafficking activity in the West Valley. The agreement also provides access to DEMA grant funding administered by the City of Avondale, which helps reimburse eligible costs such as overtime, training, and investigative activities, reducing the financial burden on the City while supporting critical public safety initiatives.

BENEFITS:

Participation in the West Valley Sex Trafficking Task Force provides significant regional and community benefits. The IGA strengthens coordination among Buckeye, Avondale, Goodyear, and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, allowing agencies to share resources, training, and investigative expertise to more effectively identify and assist victims of sex trafficking.

By collaborating through a unified task force, the City of Buckeye enhances its ability to support victim-centered responses, improve communication with service providers, and participate in proactive operations aimed at reducing trafficking activity in the West Valley. The agreement also provides access to DEMA grant funding administered by the City of Avondale, which helps reimburse eligible costs such as overtime, training, and investigative activities, reducing the financial burden on the City while supporting critical public safety initiatives.

Continued participation in this partnership promotes community safety, strengthens regional law enforcement cooperation, and ensures that Buckeye remains actively engaged in efforts to prevent trafficking, rescue victims, and hold offenders accountable.

FUTURE ACTION:

Once the Intergovernmental Agreement is fully executed by all participating agencies, staff will take the following steps:

- Distribute the fully executed IGA to all parties, as required, ensuring each agency receives a copy of the finalized agreement.
- Ensure assigned Buckeye Police Department personnel are designated to participate in the Task Force's ongoing investigations, training, and coordinated operations, as outlined in the responsibilities section.
- Begin tracking any reimbursable expenses, such as personnel overtime, training, and investigative activity costs, in alignment with DEMA grant requirements. Agencies must maintain documentation including general ledger records, timesheets, and pay profiles for reimbursement submission.
- Submit reimbursement requests to the City of Avondale on the required quarterly schedule.
- Coordinate with the Southwest Family Advocacy Center and participating agencies to ensure the City of Buckeye's contact information is included on the annual notice list.
- Implement internal compliance requirements, such as continuing adherence to insurance, E-Verify, nondiscrimination, and Workers' Compensation provisions.

Should additional amendments to the Intergovernmental Agreement, changes in grant funding, or updates to Task Force operations occur, staff will return to Council for review and approval as needed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no significant General Fund impact associated with this agreement. Each participating agency, including the City of Buckeye, is responsible for its own personnel and operational costs.

Eligible expenses such as overtime, training, and investigative operations may be reimbursed through grant funding administered by the City of Avondale, subject to funding availability and compliance with reporting requirements. Overall, the agreement is expected to have a minimal fiscal impact to the City, with costs largely offset by external grant funding.

BUDGETED:

No

FISCAL YEAR:

2026

Items related to a project or facility location must include an attached vicinity map for Council Review.

ATTACHMENTS:

[IGA-2026 TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE IGA
Resolution_No 45-26 Sex Trafficking.pdf](#)