

Public Comments on DSM Regular Council Meeting on Consent Item 28

Consent Item 28

Resolution:

<http://www.dmgov.org/government/CityCouncil/Resolutions/20220207/28.pdf>

Communication:

<http://www.dmgov.org/Government/CityCouncil/Communications/22-041.pdf>

Acceptance of the Homeland Security Explosive Ordnance Detection 2019 Reallocation Grant Awards on behalf of the Explosive Ordnance Detection (EOD) Task Force. (Council Communication No. 22-041)

Details:

- \$206,888 in Homeland Security grants that DMPD reallocates to state EOD Task Force
- This money is widely scoped and nothing in the item details specifically what this money will be used for
- Description of the funds usage - "The 2019 Reallocation Homeland Security grant will provide critical equipment for the statewide EOD teams so they may remain prepared to support federal initiatives and maintain statewide response to terrorism, explosive devices, and public safety. The purchased equipment will allow the EOD teams to maintain their efficient effectiveness while remaining compliant with national requirements for federal certification."

Comments:

- This \$200,000 request fails to specify what teams this money is going to, what specifically this money will be used for, does not explain why Iowa needs such an intensive Explosive Ordnance Detection program, or lay any restrictions or guidelines on how this money will be used. We already know that related SWAT teams like the Metro STAR team are called by the City to counter protests and arrest people attending council meetings, supposedly outside of the SWAT team's "official capacity", so we know it's a legitimate concern for the public when these funds are handled so loosely.