



Washington Police Department

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Michael D. McCoy

Chief of Police

TO: The Honorable Mayor Manier and City Council
FROM: Chief Michael D. McCoy and DC Jeff Stevens
RE: Request to Approve Budgeted Expense for Cellebrite Renewal
DATE: January 23, 2017

Aldermen,

The Department uses Cellebrite to examine mobile devices for investigations. It has been beneficial in a wide variety of cases and has the potential for use in nearly every type of investigation, given the ubiquity of mobile electronic devices such as cell phones, GPS units, tablets, and the like. The Cellebrite allows investigators to access evidence that would not be practical to obtain by other means. Use has led to the arrest of several felons, and recently exonerated two men accused of a Class X Felony. The data recovered is often unavailable from other sources and therefore indispensable in determining the truth in weighty matters.

There are other devices and programs available for extracting and examining mobile data, but no one tool accomplishes every task. Cellebrite works with the broadest array of mobile devices and viewed by many forensic practitioners as the industry standard. Possessing Cellebrite at WPD allows investigators instant access to data that would typically take weeks to get if WPD officers relied on other agencies to extract the data. In instances of a consent search of a victim's mobile device(s), waiting weeks for the examination would be problematic to the investigation and victim.

This year, our Cellebrite license fee includes license renewal and a technology upgrade charge. The technology upgrade is mandatory for continued use of the product as a result of planned obsolescence. The current platform utilizes a customized Windows variant as well as custom firmware that cannot be maintained and will not keep pace with mobile device platforms. The FY '17-'18 budget has sufficient funds in line item 1004-04-560-3000 for the renewal and upgrade at the cost of \$6,700.00 (annual renewal of the license: \$3,700.00, mandatory upgrade) from the hardware component: \$3,000.00). The mandatory upgrade is not a recurring expense. The price is a result of a statewide contract negotiated by the Office of the Attorney General.

The Department requests Council approval of this planned and budgeted expense.