

**Motion M2020-56 authorizing the City Manager or his designee to apply for a grant of \$226,169 from the SC Department of Public Safety's Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs (OHSJP) for the purpose of purchasing an IBIS Trax-HD3D system which will provide access for in-house gun cartridge casing review and the ability to enter casings into NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network), to record the appropriation of such grant funds in the amount that may be approved, and to execute and deliver the grant agreement and such related documents as may be required to put the grant into effect. No match is required.**

*The IBIS technology contributes to the investigation process by helping the Police Department to solve more firearm-related crimes. The use of NIBIN will allow the Police Department to provide investigative support to our community and our neighbors to investigate incidents that involve a firearm. The focus of the Myrtle Beach Police Department would be to serve as a hub for where we can process this information and provide the investigative lead to assist in solving cases.*

*NIBIN is the only national network that allows for the capture and comparison of ballistic evidence to aid in solving and preventing violent crimes involving firearms. It is a resource that is vital to any violent crime reduction strategy because it provides investigators with the ability to compare their ballistics evidence against evidence from other violent crimes on a local, regional and national level, thus generating investigative links that would rarely be revealed absent the technology.*

*See attached letters of support.*



March 25, 2020

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I am writing you on behalf of the City of North Myrtle Beach Department of Public Safety in support of the Myrtle Beach Police Department's proposal for grant funding. This past year, I along with fellow law enforcement executives from throughout the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of South Carolina (Horry and Georgetown counties) attended a presentation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). The purpose of that presentation was to discuss ways that the ATF-CGIC could create and develop partnerships, and support all agencies in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit with violent crime reduction.

CGIC presented initiatives including crime mapping, intelligence-based policing techniques and an accelerated process to conduct ballistics imaging through the use of an on-site shoot tank. However, the most impactful way that CGIC stated that they could assist our Circuit was through the use of NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network). As you are aware, in South Carolina there are three agencies with NIBIN equipment and the ability to process ballistics (Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Lexington and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division). Currently, the Myrtle Beach Police Department houses a shoot tank available to local agencies, but my agency is still at the limitations of only those agencies that are able to provide ballistics imaging which takes a significant amount of time.

Early this year, the Myrtle Beach Police Department hosted ATF's mobile NIBIN trailer in order to see the need for the use in our area. Several agencies responded throughout the area and utilized the system and several leads were obtained. I have recently been informed by Myrtle Beach Police Chief, Amy Prock, that her agency is applying for grant funding for NIBIN equipment and upon award would be a regional NIBIN site. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I offer my complete support of the grant award to the Myrtle Beach Police Department. I, along with my fellow law enforcement leaders have a great working relationship with the Myrtle Beach Police Department, and all agencies within the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. My agency would use the NIBIN system if it were established by the Myrtle Beach Police Department.

It is no secret that crime has no jurisdictional boundary in the Grand Strand area. The local availability of NIBIN by all agencies in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit will allow us to enhance our efforts. This will help us to continue to work together and combat violent crime by identifying gun crime offenders in an accelerated manner, while saving time, money, and improving multijurisdictional partnerships. If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 843-280-5611

Sincerely,

Jay Fernandez  
Director of Public Safety  
City of North Myrtle Beach  
1015 Second Ave South  
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582



## **HORRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*Phillip E. Thompson, Sheriff*

[www.HorryCounty.org](http://www.HorryCounty.org)

Post Office Box 380 • Horry County Judicial Complex • 1301 2nd Avenue • Conway, South Carolina 29528-0380

**Office:** (843) 915-5450 • **Fax:** (843) 915-6451 • **Warrant Division:** (843) 915-8347 • **Fax:** (843) 915-6142

March 25, 2020

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I am writing you on behalf of the Horry County Sheriff's Office in support of the Myrtle Beach Police Department's proposal for grant funding. This past year, I along with fellow law enforcement executives from throughout the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of South Carolina (Horry and Georgetown counties) attended a presentation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). The purpose of that presentation was to discuss ways that the ATF-CGIC could create and develop partnerships, and support all agencies in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit with violent crime reduction.

CGIC presented initiatives including crime mapping, intelligence-based policing techniques and an accelerated process to conduct ballistics imaging through the use of an on-site shoot tank. However, the most impactful way that CGIC stated that they could assist our Circuit was through the use of NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network). As you are aware, in South Carolina there are three agencies with NIBIN equipment and the ability to process ballistics (Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Lexington and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division). Currently, the Myrtle Beach Police Department houses a shoot tank available to local agencies, but my agency is still at the limitations of only those agencies that are able to provide ballistics imaging which takes a significant amount of time.

Early this year, the Myrtle Beach Police Department hosted ATF's mobile NIBIN trailer in order to see the need for the use in our area. Several agencies responded throughout the area and utilized the system and several leads were obtained. I have recently been informed by Myrtle Beach Police Chief, Amy Prock, that her agency is applying for grant funding for NIBIN equipment and upon award would be a regional NIBIN site. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that we offer my complete support of the grant award to the Myrtle Beach Police Department. We, along with my fellow law enforcement leaders have a great working relationship with the Myrtle Beach Police Department, and all agencies within the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. My agency would use the NIBIN system if it were established by the Myrtle Beach Police Department.

It is no secret that crime has no jurisdictional boundary in the Grand Strand area. The local availability of NIBIN by all agencies in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit will allow us to enhance our efforts. This will help us to continue to work together and combat violent crime by identifying gun crime offenders in an accelerated manner, while saving time, money, and improving multijurisdictional partnerships. If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 843-915-8558.

Sincerely,

Phillip E. Thompson, Sheriff  
Horry County Sheriff's Office, SC



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

*Charlotte Field Division*

---

6701 Carmel Road, Suite 200  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28226  
www.atf.gov

March 26, 2020

Chief Amy Prock  
City of Myrtle Beach Police Department  
1101 N. Oak Street  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

RE: Support for Grant Funded NIBIN Unit

Chief Prock,

The Myrtle Beach Police Department has partnered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) in utilizing the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) to identify and investigate violent crime in the Grand Strand region of South Carolina. To maintain this successful collaboration and to expand ongoing NIBIN initiatives, ATF strongly supports the addition of a grant-funded unit to your agency.

Most recently, our ATF Columbia and Charleston Field Offices collaborated with your evidence technicians to coordinate the examination of ballistic evidence using one of ATF's NIBIN mobile units. Examining ballistic evidence from your agency, as well as ballistic evidence of the other participating agencies in your region, expedited a number of investigations and greatly reduced the amount of evidence that would have otherwise gone to the State Crime Lab for entry and examination. Your agency's proactive work towards building NIBIN technologies into your current policies and procedures, along with your willingness to process ballistic evidence for numerous area agencies, confirmed the value of the program and the benefits of establishing a bigger NIBIN presence in your area.

NIBIN equipment received through this grant program would certainly further the ongoing collaboration with your agency and surrounding law enforcement partners for many years to come. With no currently active NIBIN sites in the northeastern region of South Carolina, this additional unit would fill a critical gap in NIBIN infrastructure. A new site would have an immediate impact in the area, expanding the region's abilities to conduct ballistics imaging, manage violent crime mapping, and engage in other intelligence-based policing strategies.

For those reasons, ATF fully supports the Myrtle Beach Police Department grant request, and their proposal to obtain a NIBIN unit. If I can provide any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (704) 716-1800.

VINCENT  
PALLOZZI

Digitally signed by  
VINCENT PALLOZZI  
Date: 2020.03.27  
08:00:13 -04'00'

Vincent C. Pallozzi  
Special Agent in Charge





# HORRY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Dedicated to Providing Comprehensive, Quality Law Enforcement*

Joseph R. Hill  
Chief of Police

2560 North Main Street, Suite 7 - Conway, SC 29526 - Tel.: 843-915-5350 - Fax: 843-248-1886

April 6, 2020

Dear Sir or Ma'am:

I am writing you on behalf of the Horry County Police Department in support of the Myrtle Beach Police Department's proposal for grant funding. This past year, I along with fellow law enforcement executives from throughout the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of South Carolina (Horry and Georgetown counties) attended a presentation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). The purpose of that presentation was to discuss ways that the ATF-CGIC could create and develop partnerships, and support all agencies in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit with violent crime reduction.

CGIC presented initiatives including crime mapping, intelligence-based policing techniques and an accelerated process to conduct ballistics imaging through the use of an on-site shoot tank. However, the most impactful way that CGIC stated that they could assist our Circuit was through the use of NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network). As you are aware, in South Carolina there are three agencies with NIBIN equipment and the ability to process ballistics (Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Lexington and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division). Currently, the Myrtle Beach Police Department houses a shoot tank available to local agencies, but my agency is still at the limitations of only those agencies that are able to provide ballistics imaging which takes a significant amount of time.

Early this year, the Myrtle Beach Police Department hosted ATF's mobile NIBIN trailer in order to see the need for the use in our area. Several agencies responded throughout the area and utilized the system and several leads were obtained. I have recently been informed by Myrtle Beach Police Chief, Amy Prock, that her agency is applying for grant funding for NIBIN equipment and upon award would be a regional NIBIN site. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I offer my complete support of the grant award to the Myrtle Beach Police Department. I, along with my fellow law enforcement leaders have a great working relationship with the Myrtle Beach Police Department, and all agencies within the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. My agency would use the NIBIN system if it were established by the Myrtle Beach Police Department.

It is no secret that crime has no jurisdictional boundary in the Grand Strand area. The local availability of NIBIN by all agencies in the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit will allow us to enhance our efforts. This will help us to continue to work together and combat violent crime by identifying gun crime offenders in an accelerated manner, while saving time, money, and improving multijurisdictional partnerships. If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [organization contact number].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill", is written over the typed name.

Col. Joseph R. Hill, Chief of Police  
Horry County Police Department