

**From:** Braxton, Verlena (COPS) [<mailto:Verlena.Braxton@usdoj.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:11 PM  
**To:** Anita Cocoves <[acocoves@fppd.org](mailto:acocoves@fppd.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: City of Fort Pierce Police Grant (ORI #FL05601)

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Good afternoon:

It was a pleasure speaking with you on yesterday. Based on our tele phone conversation, your agency cannot make any changes to the grant award until it has been signed and accepted. Your agency was awarded 10 new officer positions for the COPS Hiring Program. The grant funding may be used to hire new officers as well as backfill any existing vacancies. Your agency can reduce the number of positions on your agency award by submitting a budget modification request via the COPS Agency Portal. Also, we are about to transfer to a new system that will impact the budget modification process. If your agency decides to modify the grant, please check with me before submitting a request. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks and have a great weekend.

**From:** Anita Cocoves <[acocoves@fppd.org](mailto:acocoves@fppd.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 8:22 AM  
**To:** Braxton, Verlena (COPS) <[vbraxton@cops.usdoj.gov](mailto:vbraxton@cops.usdoj.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: City of Fort Pierce Police Grant (ORI #FL05601)

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Good **Morning** Ms. Braxton:

Thank you for returning my call. As a review of our conversation, please verify the following information that we discussed:

The COPS grant funding for officer salary that was awarded to the City of Fort Pierce Police may be utilized to place **new hires** into **new positions** (as evidenced by newly developed position descriptions specific to the grant objectives). While the Department may continue to have vacancies on its overall police force, every effort will be made to fill open positions as is appropriate depending upon the candidate/hire; i.e.; the Department will make every effort to fill open positions (the 'new grant positions' and vacancies that exist) on an equal basis (not fill all DOJ positions first, *then* fill open agency positions).

In order for the Department to reduce the number of positions that will be funded with the COPS grant, the budget amendment requesting the change (decrease in officers funded) is required to take place once the grant award is fully accepted in the initial award amount of ten (10) officers.

Please advise if the above information is correct and that my interpretation of our conversation is accurate. Thank you, in advance for your assistance and continued support.

**Anita Cocoves, Ph.D., LMHC, MCAP | Grant & Program Coordinator | City of Fort Pierce**

**Police Department**

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