


## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Sergeant Drew Jacobs

**CC:** Chief Kipp Shimpeno

**FROM:** John J. Hearn, Assistant City Attorney 

**RE:** Use of Law Enforcement Trust Funds for G.R.A.D.E Supplies

**DATE:** August 12, 2022

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You have asked whether law enforcement trust funds may be expended to purchase G.R.A.D.E. tee shirts for students who participate in the G.R.A.D.E. program. The G.R.A.D.E. program is a preventive program which seeks to teach students about drug awareness, gang awareness and intervention, bullying, internet safety, peer pressure, self-esteem issues and conflict resolution. Section 932.7055, Florida Statutes allows the expenditure of funds to support drug prevention programs. Further, the Attorney General's Office has found that extraordinary youth programs may be funded by law enforcement trust funds. Florida law recognizes and allows the use of funds for youth organizations upon the Chief of Police providing a written certification that the request complies with the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act. The use of funds for an educational benefit assists the youth of the community to become good citizens. These types of programs have also been shown to assist in drug and crime prevention. Therefore, upon certificate by the Chief that this program is consistent with expenditures for law enforcement trust funds, this expenditure appears consistent with Chapter 932 of the Florida Statutes.

As always, if you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

JJH:dlw

cc: Samuel S. Goren, City Attorney