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**INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

**MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-142**

**TO:** Chief Kipp Shimpeno, Pembroke Pines Police Department

**CC:** Sergeant Angela Goodwin, Pembroke Pines Police Department

**FROM:** Kerry L. Ezrol, Assistant City Attorney *KLE*

**DATE:** August 13, 2020

**RE:** Use of Law Enforcement Trust Funds for A Child is Missing Program

You have asked whether Law Enforcement Trust Funds may be used to donate \$5,000.00 to A Child Is Missing Inc. A Child is Missing, Inc. is a nationwide non-profit organization that helps law enforcement agencies locate missing children, elderly persons, college students, and the disabled. The organization has assisted law enforcement to find children and the elderly that have become victims of abduction and other crimes.

Florida forfeiture law (section 932.7055, Florida Statutes) requires agencies that acquire at least \$15,000 pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act within a fiscal to expend or donate at least twenty-five percent (25%) of its proceeds from forfeiture for the support or operation of any drug treatment, drug abuse education, drug prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer program or programs. The local law enforcement agency has the discretion to determine which program or programs will receive the designated proceeds. As a result, a donation to this organization would appear to be consistent with Florida forfeiture law as it addresses both crime prevention and safe neighborhoods, consistent with the requirements of state law. Therefore, upon certification by the Chief that he has found these funds to be consistent with Chapter 932, Florida Statutes, and upon approval by the City Commission, the requested funds may be donated to A Child is Missing, Inc.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

KLE:mls-