



PRESS-REGISTER

Commission matches grant for hurricane crimes unit

County agrees to pay \$72,000 to set up task force

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Staff Report

The Mobile County Commission has agreed to pay \$72,000 to match a \$650,000 state grant to help set up a hurricane crimes task force in the district attorney's office.

The office applied for the funds to establish the District Attorney's Disaster Response Team and Fraud Strike Force, dedicated to hurricane-related crimes, such as price-gouging, forged and worthless checks, fake charities, cleanup scams, contractor fraud and people posing as relief workers, insurance adjusters and law enforcement.

Mobile County District Attorney John Tyson Jr. initially asked the commission to increase his funding by \$200,000 a year to pay for extra personnel, supplies and equipment.

The grant, which would come from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, would cover those costs instead.

Tyson said the money from the grant should start flowing by May 1, allowing the program to get up and running by June, the beginning of this year's hurricane season.

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