

City's D.A.R.E. to get \$62,335 for drug use prevention goals

LAKEWOOD — The city Division of Police has been awarded \$62,335 from Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray's Special Drug Use Prevention Grant program.

These funds will be used to support the salaries of police officers instructing the Drug Abuse

Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in the city's public schools. This funding is in addition to annual funding from the Ohio attorney general in support of D.A.R.E.

"We appreciate Attorney General Cordray's Office providing this additional funding for our

D.A.R.E. Program," stated Mayor Edward FitzGerald. "This money will help us expand our program and allow our officers to spend more time in the schools."

"In today's tough economic climate, police departments around the state are finding it difficult to continue valuable programs like Lakewood's D.A.R.E. effort," said Attorney General Cordray.

"The Lakewood Division of Police is to be commended for seeking out this grant," Cordray added, "allowing them to not only continue but expand their work within local schools. We must do all we can to protect our children and help them to make the right choices."

These grants are funded through unused money in a state fund dedicated to pay for drug use prevention. Any driver convicted of operating a vehicle while intoxicated pays a \$75 fee when reinstating his or her license. This money goes into the fund, which by the policy of prior attorneys general was reserved solely for D.A.R.E. programs.

Attorney General Cordray expanded the grant eligibility to include school resource officers and others who teach drug use prevention to children and teens. The grant money must be used between now and May 31, 2010.

The Special Drug Use Prevention Grant was developed by Attorney General Cordray in conjunction with the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, D.A.R.E. Ohio and the Ohio School Resource Officers Association.