

Reduced Funding Has Significant Effect on Sheriff's Operations.

The Solano County Board of Supervisors met earlier today to consider accepting a proposal by the County Administrator to reduce the County's operating budget by \$12.4 million in the current fiscal year. The budget reduction as proposed recommends the elimination of 161 filled positions, subjecting the employees currently occupying these positions to layoffs. The proposal also eliminates an additional 44 funded and currently vacant staff positions.

The portion of the proposed budget reduction attributed to the Sheriff represents a \$2.8 million reduction to the Sheriff's operating budget and potentially eliminates 43 occupied positions and 9 vacant positions for a total loss of 52 allocated positions. If the budget reduction is ultimately adopted in the amounts proposed this will significantly and negatively impact the ability of the Sheriff to provide public safety services. In addition to the budget reduction proposed earlier today, the Sheriff's fiscal year 2009-2010 operating budget was previously reduced twice, resulting in an increasing reduction of services to the community.

"The only good news is that the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors continue to work together to arrive at some reasonable and responsible level of public safety services", said Sheriff Stanton. "The Board of Supervisors must make some very difficult choices in the coming weeks and months to arrive at a list of funding priorities that will reduce operating costs and reasonably meet the service level expectations of the community". "My role is to do what I can to ease the budget situation, without excessively compromising the provision of public safety services". "I'm confident that the Board of Supervisors will do all that is possible to avoid putting the community at increased risk, however; we all need to recognize that in this economy community services and the compensation of county employees across the board cannot be sustained at the present and perhaps preferred level, and some rational compromises must be made", stated Sheriff Stanton.

The attached document provides a summary of previous and currently proposed reductions to the Sheriff's operating budget and the corresponding loss of public safety services.

Summary of Sheriff's Office Budget Reductions and Loss of Public Safety Services

The FY2009-2010 Proposed Budget for the Sheriff's Office included a \$1.5 million overall reduction in appropriations when compared with the FY2008-2009 budget. The reduction in General Fund contribution was about \$1.1 million. Combined with about \$8 million in fixed cost increases and loss of Proposition 172 revenue, the effective net reduction to the Sheriff's budget was about \$9.5 million or 20% of the general fund contribution.

Program and service reductions included holding eight Deputy Sheriff positions and one Lieutenant - Sheriff position vacant and a 15% reduction in equipment and supplies in Patrol and Marine Patrol limiting the Sheriff's ability to prevent, detect and respond to

crimes; a 22% reduction in the Alternative Sentencing Bureau including the loss of two out of the five Correctional Officers resulting in fewer compliance checks; holding vacant eighteen Correctional Officer positions and three Sheriff Services Technician positions, impacting security, access to programs by inmates, and preparation for inspections in the jail; additionally, there were significant reductions in administrative services and training. Other impacts were felt throughout the Sheriff's Office as a result of this proposed budget.

Investigations and Community Policing programs were reduced significantly resulting in the need to prioritize criminal investigations and reduced checks on parolees, probationers, convicted sex offenders and narcotics registrants. The Sheriff's efforts in the realm of drug and gang enforcement were also significantly reduced in this budget. Reductions to the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team could impact our ability to respond to critical incidents in the Sheriff's jails. In addition, many of our technology initiatives were cut back or eliminated in the Proposed Budget.

In August, the Sheriff's Office was asked to cut an additional \$752,000 as a result of additional projected reductions in Proposition 172 revenue. At this time we eliminated four limited-term Deputy Sheriff positions that were dedicated to the CalMMET methamphetamine enforcement program; we eliminated the family violence detective, and made other line item reductions to meet the target.

On September 22, the Board of Supervisors approved the elimination of 27 vacant positions in the Sheriff's Office including one Building Trades Mechanic, 18 Correctional Officers, three Deputy Sheriffs, one Lieutenant - Corrections, one Lieutenant - Sheriff, one Office Assistant II, one Office Coordinator, and one Sheriff's Services Technician.

On October 27 the Board of Supervisors was asked to consider another \$2.8 million in cuts to the Sheriff's Office, twice as much as any other county office or department. This includes the elimination of nine additional vacant positions and 43 filled positions. This would bring the total of positions lost in FY09-10 to 99, representing a loss of 20% of the Sheriff's staff. The Sheriff has submitted a reduction plan that will significantly impact the community by closing a portion of the sentenced detention facility, cuts in the marine patrol program as well as emergency services, records and warrants, crime scene investigation, the complete elimination of the cash handling program managing inmate funds and the complete elimination of the Sheriff's Services Technician program support jail operations. Regrettably, the Sheriff's Office can no longer accommodate continuing demands to reduce costs without making significant cuts to staffing and public safety programs.

With the proposed reductions, the Sheriff will have effectively cut over \$13 million in programs and services when compared with fiscal year 2008-2009. The equals more than one fourth of total general fund support and more than 15% of the total operating budget.