

**Citizen Budget Advisory Committee
Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
Fiscal Year 2014
April 19, 2013**

Executive Summary:

Jail Capacity: The drastic increase in Emergency Population Releases since February 2012 is not acceptable. There were 913 Emergency Population Releases this last year compared to only 82 Emergency Releases in 2011. For years the Sheriff's Office has been operating with a very thin margin of available jail beds. Current capacity is insufficient and is a critical public safety issue. More resources are needed.

Human Trafficking: The Sheriff's Office protects men, women, and children from being victimized for profit through commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. For the cost of only one Detective, vulnerable populations are protected and criminals prosecuted. This is made possible because of effective coordination of partner law enforcement agencies and a vast web of organizations and citizen volunteers (approximately 500 in total).

Turn Self-In: Is a highly cost effective and sensible program that saves the County jail beds and keeps families together.

Introduction:

The Citizen Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) to the Sheriff's Office is a program of the Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC). Both the CIC and CBAC are independent of the County and are therefore in a position to provide input and feedback to the Sheriff's Office and the Board of County Commissioners. We value our opportunity to learn about the County budget process, how the Sheriff manages the budget, and the operations of the Sheriff's Office. We value our ability to share our independent and informed judgments with the Sheriff and his staff, and well as with officials in the County.

The Citizen Budget Advisory Committee to the Sheriff meets ten months out of the year, sometimes twice a month, and is assisted by Fiscal Manager Wanda Yantis, Chief Deputy Drew Brosh, and Office Assistant Lynette Hanson. In addition to visits from Sheriff Dan Staton, we were regularly briefed by several knowledgeable members of the Sheriff's Office:

- Chief Deputy Drew Brosh briefed us on the FY 2013 Adopted Budget, City of Portland funding for Booking ID Technicians, FY 2013 budget vs. program funding, Commission on Public Safety, and the Governor's Budget.
- Fiscal Manager Wanda Yantis briefed us on the implementation progress of the new County budget software, and the FY 2014 budget process.
- Planning and Research Director Shea Marshman presented the Rosewood Initiative Program, and briefed us on active Planning and Research projects for agency improvement.

- Corrections Support Unit Manager Joyce Griffin briefed us on the Corrections Support Unit.
- Chief Deputy Michael Shults briefed us on the corrections grand jury process.
- Human Resources Director Jennifer Ott briefed us on Corrections Deputy recruitment.
- Captain Raimond Adgers presented the Corrections Grand Jury Report.
- Planning and Research Development Analyst Jack Diamond provided a presentation on TeleStaff.
- Planning and Research Director Shea Marshman presented the Jail Population Analysis.
- Human Trafficking Detective, Human Trafficking Task Force Director, and OATH Leadership Team Member Keith Bickford briefed us on human trafficking in Oregon and MCSO's response in the community.
- Captain Monte Reiser presented the Trail Rescue project.

In addition to the above briefings and discussions, CBAC members were given a tour and presentation of the Sustainable Jail Project at Inverness Jail and a ride-along with the Sheriff's River Patrol to view current operations.

Major Changes:

This CBAC has been impressed with the MCSO's commitment to community policing through the Rosewood Initiative Public Safety Partnership. The Rosewood neighborhood has one of the highest crime rates in Multnomah County. Together with the local community, Portland Police Bureau, Gresham Police Department, and the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, the Sheriff is working to improve livability for residents, businesses, and visitors to the Rosewood neighborhood. To this end, the Sheriff's Office has increased patrols and missions focused on crimes in the area, and is using MCSO work crews to address graffiti and help with the remodel of the community center and non-profit Rosewood Café. We commend the Sheriff for taking action in this area and for partnering with others to provide a cost-effective solution to a complex problem.

We were again pleased at many of the findings in the 2012 Report of the Multnomah County Corrections Grand Jury. The Grand Jury commented that standards followed by the county jails exceed national standards, and adhere to Oregon Jail Standards (MCDC earned a full compliance percentage of 99.03%). The Sheriff's Office Sustainable Jail project was highly commended in the report, after having received the Multnomah County Award for Sustainability in 2011 and again in 2012. It certainly is an example for other county agencies to follow. Besides being good for the environment, it saves money.

Recommendations/Concerns:

The Grand Jury also cited areas of concern, one of which was an unacceptably high number of emergency releases over the past year (913, compared to only 82 in 2011). This issue is of concern to the CBAC as well. We are unclear how the Sheriff's Office can aggressively confront

the steep rise in emergency population releases under the FY2014 budget constraint of \$1.2 million.

In years past, a slight increase in emergency releases could be passed off as temporary and random. Unfortunately, the high level of releases this last year cannot be viewed as an anomaly. For one, it corresponds to national trends. The Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Victimization Report, which defines the national crime rate, reported the first rise in national violent crime since 1993. Also, an increase in Multnomah County population by 24,000 people since 2009 has likely helped augment the jail population.

The number of Emergency Population Releases last year is high, and, unfortunately, the percentage of those released who re-offend is shockingly high at just over fifty percent, according to the Sheriff's Office Planning and Research Unit. The Grand Jury pointed out that the drastic paring down of programs which help former inmates re-adapt to society is a likely contributor to this large rate of re-offense.

Our jail bed capacity for 2014 is less than the year before, when it should in fact be more. In FY2013, 1,310 jail beds were funded, however Dorm 4 (59 beds) was funded with One-Time-Only money. These beds are now out of target for FY2014. After a tenfold increase in emergency releases, this decrease in resources is unacceptable.

We are also concerned that the Human Trafficking Detective is out-of-target. Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing criminal industries in the world, and Detective Keith Bickford reports that Oregon is one of this industry's fastest-growing markets. Multnomah County has long been a leader in bringing awareness to this issue, pushing for legislation, and working together with NGOs, other law enforcement agencies, and the community to provide help and safety to victims. We are impressed with how much the County gets for its investment in this one Detective. It is slow, painstaking work to build trust in local communities and coordinate a web of volunteers. We do not think that this position should expire, especially when so many men, women, and children in Oregon are being exploited sexually or through forced labor.

In meeting with Captain Monte Reiser to discuss Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, we learned that over \$71,000 was spent on SAR-related overtime last year. The Sheriff's Office is statutorily required to conduct Search and Rescue operations when a hiker goes missing in one of Multnomah County's many scenic areas. In certain situations, however, it can take up to two and a half hours for SAR personnel to begin searching for a missing hiker once a call is received. As a result, it may be dark by the time these SAR operations begin, which can prolong the search. Additionally, these searches involve intense hiking and running, and can be difficult if personnel are not highly athletic. Captain Reiser proposed training and equipping a specially-chosen group of four or five highly athletic deputies who could quickly respond to these SAR calls. Captain Reiser estimates the cost of training and equipment to be about \$20,000. We recommend supporting this proposal to assemble a roster of skilled athletes who could save money and lives.

Emerging Issues:

We are concerned that there is only one patrol car to cover Districts 10 and 20, which comprise three separate areas that are not physically connected, spanning over 60 square miles. This extremely thin coverage could result in a serious incident, since the occurrence of more than one emergency call in this area takes out the only car designated to it. We recommend hiring a

Community Resource Deputy for the Northwest Multnomah County Recreational Areas (one FTE).

Roughly 83 (19%) of the Corrections Division sworn staff are currently eligible for retirement. We recommend using One-Time-Only money for recruitment and training in advance of these departures to minimize future personnel costs, including overtime.

High on the list of importance to the public is traffic safety. We recommend the restoration of dedicated DUII and traffic safety team by adding two Deputies.

Sheriff's Office CBAC Members:

Ethan Atkinson

Julie Cieloha

Ray Davenport

Ron Saroff

Phyllis Thiemann