



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CITIZEN'S BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2010/2011**

Process:

The committee has met with the District Attorney and his budget staff on two occasions during this budget process starting in November of 2009. The CBAC discussed general fund revenue outlook, constraint target and preparations for submitting the 2010/2011 budget documents. In addition, the CBAC discussed the potential countywide impact of a significant general fund revenue shortfall and generally how the District Attorney's Office will approach submitting their program offers.

In January 2010 the CBAC and District Attorney Michael Schrunk reviewed the constraint numbers and a preliminary on how many positions would be needed to be eliminated to meet the constraint.

In March the CBAC met and discussed recent revenue projections, developments on the State budget passage of measures 66 and 67, reviewed the proposed list of cuts the DA will submit in their proposed budget and identified areas of concern they wanted to address in their report.

Major Changes:

As requested by the County's budget office, the District Attorney's Office has submitted budget Program Offers that reflect a 4% general fund reduction in the overall operation. With 85% of the budget attributed to personnel costs the vast majority of the \$715,000 reduction will come from position cuts. The office will lose 5.5 Deputy DA general fund positions unless restorations are made.

In addition to general fund reductions the DA Office will also suffer the loss of 2.5 grant funded Deputy DA positions next year unless new grant funding is acquired. These grant positions are by grants provided by the Portland Police Bureau and target prostitution on 82nd and chronic offenders in the downtown core area.

The CBAC believes that the District Attorney and his staff have taken a thoughtful approach in identifying the proposed reductions. He has long said that his office will always address the most serious crimes and offenders and the budget proposal reflects this philosophy. The cuts are spread across the organization so as not to create a shortage or hole in the prosecution of high, medium or low level offenders. The program taking

the largest reduction in terms of FTE is the Property Crime Unit which would lose 1.5 Deputy DA position, while the unit suffering the greatest workload impact because of the cut is MDT Child Abuse. The Deputy DA3 position cut to this unit would reduce its prosecution capacity by 25%.

Recommendations/Concerns:

The District Attorney's Office is a lean organization that continues to keep citizens safe by holding those who commit crimes in Multnomah County responsible for their actions. The CBAC strongly believes that, when taken with the cuts from the past two years, these proposed reductions are too deep.

The proposed budget will take away resources in areas that will have effect of lengthening case processing time and their ability to dedicate sufficient time to the prosecution of individual cases. This is especially true for the MDT Child Abuse Unit, Domestic Violent Unit and Gang Unit. Having the capacity to do little more than triage these complex cases puts victims, potential victims and children at risk. The CBAC recommends that these three positions be restored.

The CBAC understands that quality of life crimes are considered to be lower on the continuum of crime in term of seriousness. These crimes however impact the livability and business atmosphere in our communities. The impact of offenders who commit property and misdemeanor crimes goes beyond just the immediate victims, it impacts all citizens within the community. For this reason the CBAC believes the Board should restore cuts to the Property Crime and Misdemeanor Units.

Emerging Issues:

The overriding issue is and will continue to be the sagging economy and its impact on resources that would otherwise be available to Public Safety, Health and Human Services and other valuable programs and services the County provides.

While statistics show that the crime rate is down in Multnomah County it would be easy to say job well done now lets turn our attention and our resources elsewhere. But this action would be both irresponsible and dangerous. While it is difficult to predict if or when the crime rate will again begin to rise, one thing is certain, continuing to take away necessary resources from the District Attorney and other Public Safety partners will undoubtedly hasten that increase.

District Attorney CBAC members:

Bob Pung- Chair
Dick Wegner

Mike Greenlick
Irwin Mandel

Dave Simpson
Earl Sykes

Michael Delman
Cliff Wamack