



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CITIZEN'S BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2006/2007**

Process:

The committee has met with the District Attorney and his budget staff on several occasions during this budget process starting in the fall of 2005. The CBAC discussed general fund revenue outlook and preparations for submitting the 2006/2007 budget documents.

In October of 2005 the CBAC discussed time lines for the budget submittal, 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. The CBAC was also provided copies of 2005/2006 program offers to review for discussion and feedback during the November meeting.

During the November meeting the CBAC discussed possible new outcome measures and provided feedback on strengthening the language in the performance measures submitted in the 2005/2006 offers.

In February 2006 the CBAC reviewed the final program offers submitted by the District Attorney's Office and discussed its recommendations to the Safety Outcome Team and the Board of County Commissioners. The CBAC also received an update on the joint City/County public safety process and supports its goal of finding efficiencies.

Major Changes:

The major changes in the District Attorney's Office focus on the loss of federal grant revenues as the federal government continues to reprogram grant funding into Homeland Security, the war on terrorism and hurricane Katrina relief.

Over the last four years federal grant dollars have paid for two Deputy District Attorneys' positions in the Domestic Violence program. These deputies specialize in the prosecution of elder abuse and gun related domestic violence cases and provide training and information to law enforcement and the community. The District Attorney has submitted a program offer (15015B) that requests general fund backfill for these two important positions. When purchased together, the Domestic Violence program offers 15015A and 15015B will continue to allow current service level to be provided.

Recommendations/Concerns:

The District Attorney's Office is a lean organization that continues to keep citizens safe despite reductions in the number of attorney and staff positions that occurred prior to 2005/2006. An example of this can be observed in the Drug Unit where between 2001 and 2003 the number of Deputy District Attorneys' was reduced from 12 to 7.

The CBAC expresses concern that the general fund revenue shortfall, due to the discontinuation of ITAX funding, will have a negative impact on the public safety system in Multnomah County. It is critical that the system be balanced and provided the necessary resources to hold offenders accountable for their crimes and keep citizens and communities safe.

For the past three years the ITAX funding has supported over 21 staff and attorney positions in the District Attorney's Office. The CBAC believes that these positions must continue to be funded and therefore strongly supports all of the current service level program offers submitted by the District Attorney's Office.

The CBAC knows that prosecution services are key to maintaining the integrity of the public safety system and recommends that they continue to be a high priority for the County.

Emerging Issues:

The methamphetamine addiction issue continues to permeate the spectrum of crime in Multnomah County. It is estimated that by the end of the current fiscal year the number of drug cases issued will increase by as much as 12% while approximately 80% of all property crimes, including identity theft, are now either motivated by or have a methamphetamine addiction component. Even as state and federal dollars become available for new law enforcement and treatment strategies the District Attorney's Office continues to search for prosecution funding sources to help in this effort.

The Cities of Gresham and Portland have increased their gang enforcement efforts. In recent months the City of Portland has doubled the size of its gang enforcement unit while the City of Gresham has created a new gang enforcement unit within the police department. The District Attorney's gang unit will need additional resources to support and effectively respond to these enhanced enforcement efforts.

District Attorney CBAC members:

Bob Pung- Chair
Dick Wegner
Mike Greenlick
Dave Simpson
Irwin Mandell
Earl Sykes