



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CITIZEN'S BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2012/2013**

Good Morning Chair Cogen and Commissioners my name is Bob Pung and I am the Chair of the District Attorney's Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee.

The committee has met with the District Attorney and his budget staff on two occasions during this budget process starting in December of 2011. The CBAC discussed general fund revenue outlook, constraint target and preparations for submitting the 2012/2013 budget documents. In addition, the CBAC discussed the potential countywide impact of the general fund revenue shortfall, the possibility of significant state reductions to the county and generally how the District Attorney's Office will approach submitting their program offers.

The District Attorney's Office was asked to submit a proposed budget which includes a 1.5% or \$287,163 general fund reduction. In order to meet this constraint the office proposes eliminating a Deputy DA level 3 position assigned to the Child Abuse MDT unit and a Deputy DA 2 position assigned to the Property Crime Unit. In the Chair's Executive Budget Chair Cogen has restored this level 3 Deputy DA position in the District Attorney's Budget and I want to thank him for restoring that position.

In addition to the loss of the general fund position the office has exhausted Federal funding for the Child Sexual Predator Deputy DA 3 position and funding from the City of Portland for 2.5 Deputy DA positions is still being

discussed as part of the City's budget process. These City funded positions have been important to the success of the Service Coordination Team, Drug Impact Area program and Child sex trafficking and commercial exploitation cases while working with the City's Prostitution Project. The CBAC hopes that the City will continue to fund these valuable Deputy DA positions next year.

The CBAC understands that during times of economic stress and revenue uncertainty all departments must make sacrifices so that the County can, to the extent possible, continue to provide direct services to those in need. The economic hardship not only affects county services but also those provided by the cities within Multnomah County. Basic Health and Safety should be the collective concern and a priority for all governments, Federal, State and Local, and maintaining a balanced and effective Public Safety System must be a collaborative effort.

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 is concerned that, when taken with the cuts from the past four years, the overall reduction in the number of Deputy District Attorney's could impact the offices capacity to prosecute crimes and keep citizens safe. The proposed budget would further reduce the number of Deputy District Attorney FTE to 68. This is down from 84.8 in 2009 and represents a 21% reduction over that time period. This is why maintaining funding from all sources, City, County, State and Federal is vitally important.

The CBAC encourages the County to explore new ways of sharing responsibility for Public Safety through collaborative and cooperative efforts with its City partners in Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview and of course Portland. An example of this could include exploiting new and emerging technologies such as E-Court and RJNET, (now known as the Public Safety Data Exchange Project) that enable a more efficient use of available resources.

The CBAC congratulates the County Chair and Commissioners for supporting and moving forward to complete plans and the construction of the East County Court facility in the Rockwood area. This long overdue addition to the Multnomah County court system provides much needed additional courtroom space and is designed for anticipated future growth. The facility also provides an important economic anchor in the Rockwood community.

Finally, over the past 20 years, because of funding shortfalls, there have been times when it has been challenging to be a volunteer CBAC member for the District Attorney's Office. At the same time it has been a wonderful experience working with District Attorney Michael Schrunk. It has taken a skilled and knowledgeable leader like Michael to ensure that the District Attorney's Office continues to keep the citizens of Multnomah County safe while working with the resources it has been provided. I am honored to know and to have worked with Michael through this final budget season and I look forward to giving one more year and working with our next District Attorney.