



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

Process:

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.

In February and March of 2012 the CBAC and District Attorney Michael Schrunk reviewed the constraint numbers, the operational approach to balancing the budget and how many positions would be eliminated to meet the constraint. The CBAC also discussed issues they thought should be highlighted in their report.

Major Changes:

The District Attorney's Office has been 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 addition to the loss of these two general fund positions the office has exhausted funding for the Child Sexual Predator Deputy DA 3 position. This funding source will not be renewed. Further the District Attorney's Office is potentially losing funding from the City of Portland for 2.5 Deputy DA positions. These City funded positions have been integral 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..

Other non-attorney personnel losses include 1 clerical position in the Child Support Unit and .30 of a clerical position in the Juvenile Trial Unit. These losses are the result of reduced State funding from the Department of Justice.

Overall the District Attorney's budget for FY2013 is reduced by 6.8 positions from its current service level. Of this number 5.5 are Deputy DA positions while 1.3 are clerical support positions.

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 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 in-target budget would further reduce the number of Deputy District Attorney FTE to 67. This is down from 84.8 in 2009 and represents a 21% reduction over that time period.

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 CBAC believes that while the District Attorney's Office has absorbed substantial cuts over the past 12 years it has also been able to make adjustments and organizational changes that have enabled the office and the system to work efficiently. Our concern is that continued Deputy DA reductions will render these efficiencies impossible to maintain. For this reason the CBAC would thank the Chair and Commissioners and ask that they consider restoring funding for the two general fund positions lost and provide the District Attorney with the flexibility to assign these positions to the trial unit with the most urgent need for resources.

Of equal concern is the loss of City funding for the Drug Impact Area Deputy and the half time Service Coordination Team Deputy. Recent reports and media coverage of these two programs have proven how effective they are at reducing drug sales and related activity that negatively impact local businesses and at helping people to break out of addiction and homelessness by providing many of these frequent offenders with social services and treatment options. The City and County should work together to continue funding these two highly successful prosecution positions.

Emerging Issues:

An area of potential administrative savings not covered by the Coraggio group but supported by the District Attorney's office, Sheriff's office and Local Public Safety Coordinating Council is the regional network for public safety known as RJNET. This Enterprise Service Bus (EBS) system would not replace existing data systems but instead would allow those systems to exchange real time data for daily operations and provide more timely and relevant data for policy and decision makers. Systems such as RJNET, implemented throughout the country, have provided the partner agencies opportunities to

explore efficiencies, change business processes and re-task valuable human resources. In addition to connecting Public Safety data systems the same ESB can be leveraged to provide targeted data exchanges between any number of agencies or providers of Health and Social Services. With the cost of new technologies making this effort more affordable, the CBAC believes that County should make development of this system a priority.

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 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.

District Attorney CBAC members:

Bob Pung- Chair

Mike Greenlick

Dave Simpson

Mike Delman

Dick Wegner

Cliff Wamacks