



County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

April 14, 2009

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE SHERIFF TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM
THE FEDERAL OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Authorize the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) to submit an application to the Federal Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for the 2009 COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant requesting funding for the hiring of law enforcement officers in an effort to increase the Department's community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Sheriff, as an agent for the County, to submit an application online via the COPS website for the 2009 CHRP grant program requesting Federal funding for 36 months in the amount of \$88,578,000 for the purpose of hiring 288 new deputy sheriffs, salary and employee benefits funded 100 percent, dedicated to providing law enforcement area patrol and support to the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.
2. Authorize the Sheriff, as an agent for the County, to submit an application online via the COPS website for the 2009 CHRP grant program, on behalf of the contract cities and contract school districts, requesting Federal funding for 36 months in the amount of \$42,136,000 for the purpose of hiring 137 new deputy sheriffs, salary and employee benefits funded 100 percent, dedicated to providing law enforcement services to the contract cities and the contract school districts.

A Tradition of Service

3. Authorize the retention of all sworn officer positions awarded under the CHRP grant for a period of 12 months from the time that the 36 months of grant funding for each CHRP position expires, as required by the grant program, resulting in a fourth year net County cost of \$31 million. The fourth year cost is based on the Department receiving 288 deputy sheriff's for unincorporated area patrol and support; net County costs may be lower based on the number of deputy sheriffs received through the grant allocation.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Federal COPS Office is seeking grant applications to provide funding directly to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of hiring new officers in an effort to create and preserve jobs, and to increase community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. The availability of \$1 billion in funding to hire approximately 5,500 law enforcement personnel throughout the nation under the CHRP Program was announced on March 16, 2009. The application deadline is April 14, 2009. CHRP will provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for three years (36 months) for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions. Applicants must retain all sworn officer positions awarded under the CHRP grant for at least 12 months following the time that the 36 months of grant funding for each CHRP position expires. To meet the retention requirement, the CHRP-funded position(s) should be added to the agency's law enforcement budget with state and/or local funds, over and above the number of locally-funded positions that would have existed in the absence of the grant.

Efforts that will be targeted as a result of the newly-hired positions include:

- **Unincorporated Area Patrol Staffing Assessment: 103 Positions**

In response to a motion by your Board on June 26, 2006, the Department prepared a study to assess current and future patrol staffing needs in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The study recommended 212 personnel, including 10 slated for a vandalism enforcement team (VET), throughout each of the 5 Supervisorial Districts. Factors considered for increased deputy sheriff generalist (DSG) staffing levels throughout the Department's three Field Operations Regions included population, geographic area, response time, crime rate, and the number of calls for service, reports written, and arrests made per deputy.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08, your Board authorized 94 additional DSGs to supplement the respective Field Operations Regions, and during FY 2008-09, an increase of 15 DSGs were authorized. To fulfill the remaining staffing levels referenced in the adopted assessment, 103 unincorporated DSG positions have been designated throughout each of the Field Operations Regions, including 10 to staff the VET.

- Detective Division Resources: 60 Positions

- Special Victims Bureau: 23 Positions

- Since 1989, Special Victims Bureau's service area population has increased over 30 percent, and investigator workloads have increased from 2,271 to 3,505 cases per year over the same time period. The expansion of information technology has promoted a new genre of crime, including child pornography and predatory access to minors via the internet. These internet-based crimes are more complex, more time consuming, and often involve multiple jurisdictions, increasing the amount of resources expended per case. Special Victims Bureau investigators, because of their expertise in handling sexual assault cases, will have the additional responsibility in the near future to handle the Department's adult felony sexual assault cases, which number over 500 cases per year. The increased investigative workload, when coupled with the anticipated "cold-hit" investigations that will result from accelerated DNA backlog testing, will expose Special Victims Bureau investigators to workloads exceeding an unmanageable 4,000 cases per year. The addition of 23 positions to the Special Victims Bureau will significantly improve the Department's ability to manage the increased caseload.

- Commercial Crimes Bureau: 25 Positions

- The growth of information technology has resulted in a substantial increase in the volume and complexity of crimes investigated by the Department's financial elder abuse, identity theft, and real estate fraud detectives. As the trend in financial crimes increase, and as "baby boomers" continue to age and retire, the increased victimization to this segment of our population can be expected to rise, and will inflate the duties of these detectives. Real estate transaction fees, which fund staffing for the Real Estate Fraud Unit,

have declined significantly, and the Department is anticipating cutting two detectives from this unit as a result. Commercial Crimes Bureau is inundated with an increase in white collar crimes and technology-based crimes, and an increased caseload will necessitate the addition of 25 investigators to help Commercial Crimes Bureau offset the expected workload and the shortage of personnel.

Homicide Bureau: 12 Positions

The Federal Bureau of Investigation recommends an assignment of no more than eight homicide cases per two-person detective team each year. The Department's case assignment ratio in 2007 and 2008 averaged approximately 18 cases per team, per year, not including investigations of critical missing persons or analysis of non-criminal deaths. Through your Board's support, funding was received for four investigators assigned to the Unsolved Homicides Unit, but that funding is set to expire on June 30, 2009. Homicide Bureau is also anticipating an increase in caseload volume as a result of the expected leads produced by DNA "cold-hits." The Department is requesting 12 additional personnel to offset current shortfalls and the anticipated additional demands placed on the Bureau.

- Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS): 91 Positions

COPS team deputies work with the community to identify and prioritize problems, utilizing a collaborative approach to reducing crime and improving quality-of-life issues for our citizenry. COPS deputies work to establish a coordinated law enforcement effort that incorporates crime suppression, prevention, and intervention strategies. The Department is requesting a total of 91 COPS DSG positions deployed throughout the County's unincorporated communities. COPS team deputies provide critical resources in support of the Sheriff's Gang Strategy. Launched in June 2007, the Sheriff's Gang Strategy realized a significant drop in the County's overall crime rate during the first year of implementation; compared to the same period the previous year, there were 36 fewer homicides, 581 fewer assaults with firearms, and 1,434 fewer Part-1 crimes reported.

- Office of Homeland Security: 14 Positions

- Special Enforcement Bureau Emergency Services Detail: 6 Positions

The Department is the lead local agency in the County's maritime homeland security effort. In addition to providing aviation security to deter surface to air missile attacks, the Ocean Rescue Boat provides protection to the busiest port complex in the United States, including over 800 square miles of open ocean adjacent to 80 miles of shoreline. A joint boarding team, including United States Coast Guard members, is capable of detaining and boarding ships where sophisticated equipment is utilized to detect radiological, chemical, biological and nuclear materials, and conventional explosives. With the Aviation Orange Alert grant funding having been exhausted, the Department is requesting six new positions to staff the Ocean Rescue Boat.

- Aero Bureau: 8 Positions

The addition of two patrol pilots, two tactical flight deputies, and four rescue pilots is being requested to meet minimum air support coverage for patrol operations, including expanded coverage in the north County, and to support Emergency Services Detail's 24-hour deployment to provide rescue and tactical operations.

- Operation Safe Streets Bureau: 20 Positions

Operation Safe Streets Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team (GET) was created in 1989 to address the County's escalating gang violence problem. Currently, there are more than 1,100 active criminal street gangs with more than 88,000 members operating within the County of Los Angeles. In 2008, 157 of the 250 criminal homicides committed within the Department's jurisdiction were gang-related and there were 1,786 gang assaults involving firearms. The Department deploys 69 GET deputies in the most impacted areas to suppress criminal gang activity through vigorous enforcement efforts. The Department is requesting 20 additional GET deputy positions for unincorporated County areas.

- Contract Services: 137 Positions

- Contract Cities: 115 Positions

- The contract cities have requested 115 positions to increase contract city services, secure positions that were slated to be eliminated, and replace positions already deleted.

- School District Resource Officers: 22 Positions

- The school districts have requested 22 school resource officer positions dedicated to the schools, which were all slated to be eliminated.

- The CHRP grant will only accept grant applications from law enforcement agencies, and the Department has been requested to apply on behalf of the contract cities and contract school districts for the hiring of their deputy sheriffs. The contract cities and school districts cannot apply independent of the Department. The contract cities and school districts have agreed to fund all costs not covered by the CHRP grant during the 36 month grant period, and have committed to cover all costs for the requested positions in the fourth year. The Department will secure funding assurances for the requested positions in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each respective contract entity prior to accepting CHRP grant funds.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The 2009 CHRP Program, which enhances the community policing capacity and crime-prevention effort, meets the Los Angeles County's Strategic Plan; Goal 1: Operational Effectiveness and Goal 5: Public Safety.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The CHRP grant provides 100 percent Federal funding for the approved entry-level salaries and employee benefits of full-time sworn career law enforcement officers. The revenue received through the CHRP grant for the 288 deputy sheriff positions deployed in the unincorporated areas for the 36 month grant period will amount to \$88,578,000, and \$42,136,000 for the 137 deputy sheriff

positions deployed in contract cities and contract school districts, totaling \$130,714,000 in Federal funding.

As a CHRP grantee, the Department is required to retain all officer positions for at least 12 months from the time that the 36 months of grant funding for each CHRP position expires (FY 2012-13). For the 288 positions requested for County programs, it is estimated that the additional 12 months of retention will result in a cost of \$31 million if the County receives all of the requested unincorporated area positions. During the 36 month period that the salary and employee benefits are funded by the CHRP grant, additional operational costs for the unincorporated County positions will total approximately \$27,964,000. For the 137 positions requested for the contract cities, all retention costs will be funded by the requesting contract entity.

During the fifth year (FY 2013-14), the law enforcement positions may be utilized to fill existing budgeted positions and vacancies. The Department will be free from grant restrictions, and will be able to utilize the positions that best benefit the Departmental missions and priorities.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The grant application will be submitted online to the Federal COPS office and is due by April 14, 2009. Upon award notification, the Department will seek Board approval to accept the award and retention conditions. It is anticipated that notification of grant positions will be made to local law enforcement agencies by July 1, 2009, with award notifications being made shortly thereafter.

This Board letter has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Any award the Department receives from the Federal COPS Office will have a positive impact on current services. The potential funding will provide the Department with the needed additional resources to significantly enhance crime reduction and community policing efforts, and will have a considerable impact on the Department's ability to dedicate resources to support the Sheriff's Gang Strategy to reduce gang-related crime throughout the County. It is anticipated that CHRP grant funding will be made available as early as July 2009, enabling local jurisdictions to swiftly implement and deliver much needed law enforcement services and programs to our communities.

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The Department is well positioned to hire and train personnel to fill CHRP grant positions; currently there are 350 applicants that have successfully completed the employment and background process and are awaiting appointment, and another 1,500 applicants are in the background process. If the Department received the requested allotment of deputy sheriff personnel, it is anticipated that full deployment would take nine months to complete. Contingency plans have been made to accommodate the additional law enforcement recruits in the Department's upcoming training academy classes.

The CHRP grant provides an opportunity that would otherwise not have been possible to significantly enhance public safety services throughout the County of Los Angeles through the hiring of 288 deputy sheriffs for unincorporated area patrol and support, and 137 deputy sheriffs for contract cities and school districts. The potential allocation of \$130,714 in Federal CHRP grant funding, which provides 100 percent funding for salary and employee benefits for 425 deputy sheriffs, would provide the Department with the personnel resources needed to radically impact criminal activity throughout our communities.

CONCLUSION

Upon your Board approval, please return four (4) individually certified copies of the Board-adopted letter to the Department Grants Unit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leroy" being the most prominent part.

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF