

County of Santa Clara Office of the Sheriff




SO02 102009

Prepared by: Michelle L. Sandoval
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DATE: October 20, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Laurie Smith
Sheriff

SUBJECT: Supplemental Law Enforcement Services for Social Services Agency

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations relating to an Interagency Agreement between the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency and the Office of the Sheriff for supplemental law enforcement services.

Possible action:

- a. Approve delegation of authority to Sheriff, or designee, to negotiate, execute, amend, terminate, and take any and all necessary or advisable actions relating to an Interagency Agreement with the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency to provide supplemental security law enforcement services in an amount not to exceed \$148,764 annually following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on June 30, 2010.
- b. Introduction and preliminary adoption of Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.10.29 amending Santa Clara County Salary Ordinance No. NS-5.10 relating to the compensation of

employees adding one Deputy Sheriff position in the Office of the Sheriff. (Roll Call Vote to waive reading, Roll Call Vote to adopt)

- c. Approve Request for Appropriation Modification No. 77 - \$99,176 increasing revenue and expenditures in the Office of the Sheriff budget. (4/5 Roll Call Vote)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no adverse impact to the County General Fund. Approval of this action would increase one-time and ongoing revenues and expenditures in the Office of the Sheriff. The recommended action will increase FY 2010 revenues and expenses in the amount of \$99,176. The ongoing revenues and expenses for FY 2011 and beyond is \$148,764. The Social Services Agency will fund the salary and benefit costs of one full-time Step 5 Deputy Sheriff position for supplemental law enforcement services.

CONTRACT HISTORY

The Office of the Sheriff entered into an interagency agreement with the Social Services Agency for the period April 30, 2009 through September 30, 2009, as part of a pilot program for supplemental security law enforcement services. Per the agreement, one Level I or Level II Reserve Deputy Sheriff was assigned to patrol the lobbies and parking lots of Social Services Agency buildings located on Senter Road in San Jose.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Through an interagency agreement, as part of a pilot program, the Office of the Sheriff was providing supplemental security/law enforcement services to the Social Services Agency's Department of Employment and Benefit Services (DEBS) for the period April 30, 2009, through September 30, 2009. Due to the success of this program, the Social Services Agency (SSA) would like to continue these services on a long term basis and has requested to enter into a new agreement for the provision of full-time supplemental services, thereby funding the salary and benefit costs of one full-time Deputy Sheriff position.

DEBS provides low income individuals and families with access to health, financial, nutritional, and employment assistance. Since the decline in the economy, the DEBS General Assistance Program and Cash Assistance for Families with Children Program have been inundated with requests for financial aid. Additionally, the DEBS Employment Assistance - CalWORKS Employment Services (CWES) Program has experienced a marked increase in the number of individuals seeking training and employment.

Currently, many of the DEBS clients seeking cash aid are middle class citizens who have been laid off, cannot find employment, and can no longer make ends meet. They are seeking aid from Social Services for the first time ever and unused to the financial aid process. Because many of these clients still have not completely depleted all of their resources, i. e. still have homes, retirement savings/IRAs, etc., they are not eligible for financial aid (in fact, most adult recipients of cash aid are completely destitute and homeless or mentally ill). As a result, some clients become extremely upset and/or indignant and have made threats of physical violence and threats to return to the premises with guns.

The CWES Employment Training Center is located in an area that is bordered by rival street gangs: the Nortenos and Surenos. CWES serves both groups and, oftentimes, rival gang members obtain employment training services in the same building, creating very tangible tension and hostility. This situation has become extremely frightening for CWES employees and their other clients.

While the Social Services Agency (SSA) employs Protective Services Officers, these positions are not armed and do not possess powers of arrest. Their role is to monitor and de-escalate situations that could become potentially volatile. Since

this is not always possible, the Sheriff's Office is called to make arrests and render law enforcement services. With the presence of an armed Deputy Sheriff providing foot patrol at DEBS buildings and parking lots since April, law enforcement response has been immediate. Additionally, the presence of a Deputy Sheriff has alleviated the fears of DEBS employees and the clients they serve.

The Employee Services Agency supports approval of this recommendation.

BACKGROUND

The Office of the Sheriff has provided security and/or supplemental law enforcement services over the years to several County departments and private entities. A partial list of departments includes the County of Santa Clara Department of Child Support Services, SSA, County Executive's Office, Office of the County Counsel, Parks Department, and also Valley Transportation Agency, Santa Clara County Superior Court, and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

The Office of the Sheriff currently has interagency agreements with the SSA for supplemental law enforcement services at the Public Guardian's Office and the Children's Shelter. SSA requested the Office of the Sheriff to enter into a new agreement for security and/or supplemental law enforcement services at its DEBS locations earlier this year due to an increase in public threats and several volatile occurrences instigated by frustrated and angry clients, and rival gang members.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Sheriff's Office would not be able to continue providing critical security law enforcement services to the Social Services Agency's Senter Road campus.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is requested to notify Michelle Sandoval, Senior Management Analyst-Office of the Sheriff once Keyboard processing is completed.

ATTACHMENTS

- Salary Ordinance Amendment No. NS-5.10.29
- Attachment One