

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 1/29/04  
**Department Name:** Sheriff-Corner  
**Department No.:** 032  
**Agenda Date:** 2/17/04  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** James Anderson, Sheriff-Coroner  
Sheriff's Department/Coroners Office

**STAFF CONTACT:** Lieutenant Gary Kitzmann  
681-4150

**SUBJECT:** Agreement for services of Independent Contractor, Pathology services

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve and execute an agreement between J.P. Blanchard M.D. Inc. for specific pathology and professional services to the Coroner's Office for the period of September 1, 2003 through September 1, 2004 with 2 automatic one-year extensions, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$27,000.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2 – Ensure Public Health and Safety and Provide Essential Infrastructure.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

A five (5) year contract with J.P. Blanchard M.D. Inc. had previously been approved for FY 98/99, 99/00, 00/01, 01/02, and 02/03. On 11-10-02, J.P. Blanchard M.D. Inc. terminated their contract with the Sheriff-Corner because they could no longer provide a Forensic Pathologist. On 11-11-02, the Sheriff-Coroner hired its own Forensic Pathologist, Dr. Robert Anthony. The Sheriff-Coroner is now seeking to renew a contract with J. P. Blanchard M.D. Inc. to provide non-forensic pathology services in the event the Sheriff's Pathologist is absent due to illness, vacation or some other event.

A contract with J.P. Blanchard M.D. Inc. is necessary to continue uninterrupted medical pathology and professional services required by the Coroner's Office in order to perform the duties of the Coroner as enumerated in Section 27491 et seq, California Government Code and 102860 Health and Safety Code.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The coroner is required to investigate certain deaths enumerated in Section 27491, California Government Code and Section 102860, Health and Safety Code. Section 27491.5, California Government code requires that "The cause of death appearing on a certificate of death signed by the coroner shall be in conformity with facts ascertained from inquiry, autopsy and other scientific findings." A pathologist or board certified forensic pathologist is required for the proper completion of such inquiry, autopsy or other scientific examination in order to comply with that legal mandate.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The funds for FY 03/04 were included in the current budget; therefore, no budget revisions for the remainder of this FY will be required. Since medical expenses and workers compensation costs continue to increase, this agreement will establish a set schedule of increased compensation limits over the next three years. The referenced contract will renew yearly and expire at the end of FY 05/06.

Fiscal Impact: FY 03/04 = \$8,000.00 FY 04/05 = \$9,000.00 FY 05/06 = \$10,000.00

Facilities Impact: None

**Special Instructions:**

Clerk of the Board; please return one copy of the executed contract to:

Sheriff-Coroner Department  
Attention Business Office

And one copy to:

**John P. Blanchard, M.D. Inc.**  
Cottage Hospital Pathology Department  
PO Box 689  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93102  
Attn Dr. Peter L. Morris

**Concurrence:**

Risk Management  
Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel