Daly, Julia Rutherford

From: Van Wingerden, Cam on behalf of County Executive Office
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2017 4:54 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: FW: Court Services/Bailiff Funding
Attachments: doc01615020170609134638 (2).pdf

Importance: High

Hello, please distribute to the Board.

Thanks,
Cam

From: Taylor, Carrie [mailto:ctaylor@sbcourts.org]
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2017 2:10 PM
To: County Executive Office
Subject: Court Services/Bailiff Funding
Importance: High

Ms. Miyasato:

On behalf of Darrel Parker, attached is a copy of a letter sent to Supervisor Wolf regarding the Sheriff's proposed reductions in court services/bailiffs. A hard copy will follow in the mail.

Carrie Taylor
Executive Assistant to
DARREL E. PARKER, CEO
SUPERIOR COURT
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
1100 ANACAPA STREET, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
DARREL E. PARKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER – JURY COMMISSIONER – CLERK OF THE COURT
(805) 614-6594

June 9, 2017

Supervisor Janet Wolf
District Two
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Dear Supervisor Wolf:

Thank you for taking the time to understand the impact of the Sheriff's proposed reductions in Court Services/Bailiffs. Reducing security in the Courts compromises public safety in government buildings designed to resolves disputes. The County Budget Book reflects a request to restore approximately $700,000 in funding to operate bailiff services in the courts. I don't yet understand how that amount addresses the proposed reduction of seven (7) full-time equivalents. Moreover, it is the Court's position that the Realignment Act and enacting legislation prohibits the reduction of positions in support of the Courts. Government Code Section 69920 states in relevant part:

> ** * * Although realignment changed the source of funding for court security, **this article is not intended to, nor should it, result in reduced court security service delivery**, increased obligations on sheriffs or counties, or other significant programmatic changes that would not otherwise have occurred absent realignment.*

In the years since the Realignment Act was introduced the Court has reduced the number of operating courtrooms by freezing two subordinate judicial officer positions previously assigned to handle traffic and reduced calendars in Solvang to two days per month. There are fewer courts operating now than at the time the Realignment Act began. Unprecedented funding cuts suffered by the court dictated this reduction in services.
In our meetings with the Sheriff and his command staff we proposed no reduction in bailiffs. We recommended seeking full funding and commit to creation of a joint task team comprised of members of the Court, Sheriff Department and other affected agencies. This task team would quickly assemble to evaluate the current staffing levels, collect data from "best practices" around the state and nation, and recommend modifications to operations and/or staffing practices to make a more efficient use of available Sheriff's Deputies assigned to Courts. Together, working collaboratively, we may be able to implement efficiencies which save the Sheriff's Department valuable resources.

Additionally, the Realignment Act references a need for an annual Memorandum of Understanding to be agreed upon between the Court and Sheriff. Government Code Section 69926(b) states in relevant part:

> *(b) The sheriff, with the approval and authorization of the board of supervisors, shall, on behalf of the county, enter into an annual or multiyear memorandum of understanding with the superior court specifying an agreed-upon level of court security services and any other agreed-upon governing or operating procedures.*

In the event the Court and Sheriff are unable to reach an agreement, an escalation process is spelled out to resolve the differences. I have met with Sheriff Command staff to begin those negotiations. The Court is committed to working in good-faith with the Sheriff to reach an agreement on bailiff staffing. I am hopeful that we can execute that agreement before the end of the next fiscal year. Under G.C. § 69920, there should be no reductions in security levels provided to the Court. Recognizing the difficult financial challenges facing the Sheriff however, the Court will collaborate on a task team to find cost saving efficiencies operations. In concert with those efforts the Court will work in good-faith with the Sheriff to reach agreement on service levels and memorialize it in a memorandum of understanding.

Thanks again for taking the time to consider this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Darrel E. Parker
Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California
County of Santa Barbara
805-614-6594

Cc: Sheriff Brown
Presiding Judge Patricia L. Kelly
Asst. Presiding Judge Michael Carrozzo
County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato
Undersheriff Bernard Malekian
Commander Daren Fotheringham
Lt. Eddie Hseu