

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

140



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:

February 2, 2015

SUBJECT: Increase Support for the Riverside Inmate Destination Endeavor (RIDE) Pilot Program, 3
[\$25,000 Court Facilities Fund]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve and direct the Auditor-Controller to make the budget adjustments on the attached Schedule A.

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Third District constituents contacted then Supervisor Stone's office with concerns about neighborhood safety following the evening and night release of inmates from the Southwest Detention Center. Constituents feared a potential increase in property crimes. The Sheriff was asked to implement a one-year pilot project that offers inmates released during times when public transportation is not available with transportation if they cannot find a ride to their destination. The program, Riverside Inmate Destination Endeavor (RIDE) is voluntary. The Sheriff has indicated that \$45,000 has been spent to date so the Executive Office requests adding \$25,000 to the Sheriff's budget to support the project through March 31, 2015. In March 2015 the Sheriff will report on a comparison of six months of crime data from the area using Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) data to assess the effectiveness of the RIDE effort.

Elizabeth J. Olson
Principal Management Analyst

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 25,000	\$	\$ 25,000	\$	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 25,000	\$	\$ 25,000	\$	

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Court Facilities 100%	Budget Adjustment: Yes
	For Fiscal Year: FY 14/15

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE
BY:
Debra Cournoyer

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2/13/15
 Assistant Sheriff Jerry Gutierrez
 Riverside County Sheriff's Departmental Concurrence

- A-30
- Positions Added
- 4/5 Vote
- Change Order

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 4-41 12/9/14 | **District:** 3 | **Agenda Number:**

3-6

DATE: February 2, 2015

PAGE: 2 of 3

BACKGROUND:

Impact on Citizens and Businesses

Third District constituents living near the Southwest Detention Center will benefit from additional oversight by the Sheriff's Department. Constituents will continue to have the ability to contact the Sheriff's Department to report any public safety concerns.

ATTACHMENTS


A. BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Schedule A

Decrease Appropriations 10000-1103900000-528500	Project Cost Expenses	\$25,000
Increase Appropriations 10000-1103900000-551100	Contributions to Other Funds	\$25,000
Increase Estimated Revenue 10000-2500400000-790600	Contribution from Other County Funds	\$25,000
Increase Appropriations 10000-2500400000-527780	Special Program Expense	\$25,000



RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Sheriff's Administration
Stan Sniff, Sheriff

TO: Executive Officer Jay Orr, via staff **DATE:** March 4, 2015
FROM: Assistant Sheriff Jerry Gutierrez 
SUBJECT: Pilot Program: SWDC Taxi Voucher Data Collection

Summary:

On June 1, 2014, the Southwest Detention Center (SWDC) began a one year pilot program requested by the Board of Supervisors titled Riverside Inmate Destination Endeavor (RIDE). The pilot program was related to the provision of taxi vouchers to released inmates from SWDC who could not arrange a ride. This was to occur when public transportation was not available between the hours of 7 PM and 6 AM, Monday through Saturday, and all day on Sundays and applicable holidays. The Board of Supervisors allocated \$25,000 for this purpose. An additional \$20,000 was later approved by the Board on December 9, 2014.

As of November 30, 2014, \$37,316.54 earmarked for this pilot project was expended. By January 31, 2015, the entire \$45,000 earmarked for the project was expended, as well as an additional \$5,844 to keep the program running. An assessment was conducted to determine who is utilizing the taxi vouchers, the reason funds were expended, and the effectiveness of the program as measured by any impact to Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) crime statistics in the unincorporated area surrounding the SWDC.

During the six month period June 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014, the following occurred:

- 3,788 inmates were released from SWDC during the hours designated by the program.
- 3,011 of those inmates indicated they had transportation arrangements.
- 777 of those inmates were unable to arrange a ride.
- 733 of those inmates who could not get a ride received a taxi voucher.
- The total amount spent on taxi vouchers was \$37,316.54
- The cost per voucher averaged \$49.43

As of January 31, 2015, the expenditures were as follows:

- The cumulative total spent on taxi vouchers was \$50,844
- The cost per voucher averaged \$52.04

Among the inmates who received a taxi voucher:

- 51% had been booked for a misdemeanor
- 49% had been booked on a felony charge
- 83% were male

- 17% were female

Southwest Sheriff Station

Captain Jeff Kubel, commander of the Southwest Sheriff's Station, indicated in October of 2013, he spoke with leaders from two small homeowner associations in French Valley regarding their concerns of crime resulting from inmates released into the community. During the meeting, Captain Kubel shared local-area crime statistics. The outcome was the community members' initial apprehensions began to subside. These two homeowner association were the only inquiries Captain Kubel received from the community about a potential, or perceived, increase in crime as a result of inmates released into the community.

Despite his contact with community groups, Captain Kubel detected social media commentary, which identified a continuing community perception regardless of the taxi voucher program. In the comments, some community members assumed any disheveled looking individuals observed near SWDC, or in a nearby shopping center, is a recently released inmate. However, this is speculative. As in most communities, there are some pedestrians and homeless people. Notwithstanding, there has been no variance in crime. Further, the area has not experienced an increase in reports or complaints from the community since the taxi voucher program was instituted.

Third Supervisor's District

Although the Third Supervisorial District is currently vacant, staff member Darrell Connerton has remained on staff and was familiar with the RIDE pilot program. Mr. Connerton reiterated to Sheriff's staff that the RIDE program was initiated due to community concerns about neighborhood safety following the regular release of inmates from the SWDC. Mr. Connerton indicated he has not received any complaints from local residents in the area near SWDC since the program initiated, but believes the local residents favor the RIDE program.

Crime Comparison

The SWDC resides in Sheriff's Reporting District (RD) SW544A. This RD includes the majority of the residential and commercial area directly surrounding the detention center. Directly adjacent to SW544A are reporting districts SW543B and SW543C; these RDs contain residential and rural areas north of the SWDC. When comparing the timeframe prior to the taxi voucher program, June 1, 2013, through November 1, 2013, in contrast to June 1, 2014, through November 1, 2014, the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Part I crime statistics for these areas indicate the three reporting districts combined experienced a 5.2% decrease in reported Part 1 crimes. However, all areas in unincorporated Riverside County experienced a 13.2 % decrease in reported Part I crimes during this same period of comparison. There is no indication the taxi voucher pilot program has effected Part I crimes in the area of SWDC.

Conclusion

The RIDE program began as a result of community concern expressed to the Third District Supervisor's office and to Southwest Sheriff's Station's command staff. The concern was that

some inmates released from SWDC were walking into the nearby residential and business communities, and their presence may increase crime within the area. The taxi voucher program was established to offer transportation to inmates who were released at night, and on weekends when public transportation was not available. The taxi voucher program was an alternative for released individuals who did not have pre-arrangement transportation.

Captain Kubel and Mr. Connerton indicate that some community members have the perception that inmates released from SWDC have created an increase of crime in the nearby community.

Since the program began, Mr. Connerton has not received any complaints, and he believes the community members who live near SWDC would like the program to continue.

Since the program began, Captain Kubel has not noticed a change in crime within the area. He has seen continued social media comments regarding the perception that pedestrians in the community who look unkempt are assumed to be inmates who have been released from the SWDC and may be committing crimes in the area.

A comparison of UCR Part I Crimes during the course of the pilot program, as compared to the same period of time the year prior to the pilot program, shows a decrease in crime. However, that crime decrease was less than the decrease in crime the entire unincorporated area experienced as a whole.

Options:

1. Continue program and approve funding at an estimated \$76,266 per year.
2. Discontinue the pilot program