

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



**FROM:** Sheriff-Coroner-PA, Supervisor Washington and  
Supervisor Ashley

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
8/26/2015

**SUBJECT:** Sheriff's Unincorporated Sworn Staffing Levels- Phased In Return to 1.2/1000, Districts All. [\$0]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Redirect staff to bring forward a plan that increases Sheriff's Department unincorporated patrol staffing to 1.2 sworn per 1,000 residents during FY 18/19, similar to the original plan outlined in Form 3-38 March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 that commenced in FY 13/14; and,
2. Redirect staff to project future Sheriff's funding from FY 16/17 thru FY 18/19, to bring Sheriff's unincorporated sworn patrol staffing up to 1.2 per 1,000 population in graduated approach.

Departmental Concurrence

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

(Continued on Page 2)

*Chuck Washington*                      *Stan Sniff*                      *Marion Ashley*  
 Chuck Washington                      Stan Sniff                      Marion Ashley  
 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor                      Sheriff-Coroner-PA                      5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost:</b>	<b>POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>	<b>Budget Adjustment:</b> No
	<b>For Fiscal Year:</b> FY 15/16

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**County Executive Office Signature**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**FORM 11: Sheriff's Unincorporated Sworn Staffing Levels- Phased in Return to 1.2 /1000, Districts All.**

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**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary (continued)**

On March 26, 2013 (Agenda item 3.38), the Board of Supervisors approved the 1.2 Budget Doctrine – Roadmap For Public Safety directing funding for the Sheriff's Department to bring the unincorporated staffing levels to 1.2 sworn per 1,000 residents due to concerns that rising crime rates could derail the economic recovery of our County and to protect public safety.

In 2009 the unincorporated sworn patrol staffing peaked at 1.2/1,000 for the first time in Riverside County history, based upon the efforts of the Sheriff starting in early 2008 to get past patrol staffing shortages across Riverside County that had forced patrol stations to operate on mandatory 12-hour shifts in 2007. As a result, in 2008 and 2009, the Sheriff's Department utilized zone-policing throughout Riverside County where unincorporated patrol beat deputies worked the same areas consistently, community members knew their deputies, and local patrol station commanders had flexible problem-oriented response teams to deal with long-range problem-solving challenges in our unincorporated areas, all in keeping with modern Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving strategies. This ability to deal proactively with crime issues in the unincorporated areas was well-received by those communities, crime was reduced, response times reduced, and local Sheriff's station commanders were able to exercise great creativity with their unincorporated area staffing resources somewhat similar to the department's contract policing operations. Community expectations of the Sheriff's Department grew as a result of these staffing levels.

Although each of our contract cities control police staffing levels within their jurisdictions in accordance with their own unique city-driven budget priorities, these city jurisdictions are also relatively small, highly populated, with relatively quick response times that include normal policing responsibilities for criminal investigations, traffic safety programs, and enforcement of unique local city ordinances. In the county's unincorporated areas, the legal responsibilities of the Sheriff focus on criminal investigations with traffic safety the responsibility of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Sworn staffing levels in the county's unincorporated areas are set solely by the Board of Supervisors as part of the budget process annually, subject to safety guidelines on minimum staffing established by the Sheriff and the ability to hire qualified personnel.

Sworn staffing levels historically have varied over the years in accordance with public expectations of service delivery levels and the increased population growth of Riverside County. The Sheriff's 10 patrol stations cover vast areas of Riverside County's 7,300 square miles with some stations covering literally hundreds – or even thousands – of square miles in their respective jurisdictions, ranging from heavily populated areas to those areas much less populated.

In 2011, due to tough County fiscal constraints resulting from the Great Recession, and facing the very real potential of layoffs, the Board of Supervisors directed the Sheriff to reduce discretionary staffing in the unincorporated areas through attrition down to "minimum staffing". For many Sheriff's stations at the time, this minimum staffing reduced on-duty patrol staff down to literally two deputies on duty at any given time for vast unincorporated patrol areas, and this curtailed zone policing, problem-solving, flexible teams, proactivity, and greatly increasing response times on calls for service (CFS).

At the start of FY 12/13, as a result of formal budget discussions the Board of Supervisors authorized the Sheriff to begin rebuilding the unincorporated area staffing levels by lifting the county's hiring freeze and for the Sheriff to begin recruiting, testing, and training large numbers of additional deputies; in early 2013, Basic Academy law enforcement classes conducted at the Ben Clark Training Center began graduating new deputies from the 6-month program, and that has continued since. In March 2013, the Board of Supervisors formalized that direction (Agenda item 3.38) with a gradual phased-in approach for unincorporated sworn staffing increases culminating

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in FY 17/18 to once again reach 1.2 sworn/1000 population. Sworn staffing levels in the unincorporated areas thereupon began rising in accordance with that Board direction and funding.

During the recent FY 15/16 Final Budget Recommendations, the Board of Supervisors decided to temporarily hold the Sheriff's unincorporated patrol ratio at 1.04 sworn per 1,000 residents during this current fiscal year. As a result, patrol operations in the unincorporated communities in the County have still not received the required resources necessary to simultaneously address the rising crime rates, increased calls for service and longer response times inherent as the County population continues to increase each year, or to meet the greatly increased community expectations from 2008 and 2009 .

Preliminary Riverside County crime trends for the first half of 2015, as reported to the FBI, were recently published. These figures show that specifically within the unincorporated areas of Riverside County, reported FBI Part I violent crimes increased by over 15%, property crimes increased 7.7% and overall FBI Part I crimes increased 8.4% in the first six months of 2015 over the same first six months of the previous year.

Department data shows the number of calls for service (CFS) in the Riverside County unincorporated areas for the first six months of 2015 increased by 6.5 percent over the same six month period in 2014. Consequently, the "average" response times for all types of calls for service have experienced an increase of nearly 2 minutes. The unincorporated County population continues to increase as reported annually by the California Department of Finance. In 2015, the unincorporated County population increase of over 5,000 residents from 2014. Before the end of the current FY 15/16, DOF will report any increase to unincorporated population as of January 1, 2016.

In addition to the pressures brought by increases in crime and population, the Board of Supervisors has moved to address specific community needs by adopting Ordinances prohibiting illegal marijuana cultivation in all zones of the County and declaring illegal marijuana cultivation to be a public nuisance. The Sheriff's Department must allocate patrol resources to assist County Code Enforcement with enforcement of the illegal marijuana grows where they continue to thrive in the Riverside County unincorporated areas. These enforcement activities require the Sheriff to redeploy patrol resources to assist Code Enforcement to give notice to violators and ensure compliance. Additional efforts are underway to address other community issues such as dealing with unruly parties. While such efforts are important to preserve public safety and quality of life, their enforcement requires additional resources provided within that 1.2 per 1,000 target.

As a result of the current rising crime trends, increased calls for service, longer response times and the Department's effort to assist with specific community needs throughout the county areas, the Sheriff recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department to reestablish unincorporated sworn staffing levels to 1.2 per 1,000 residents during FY 18/19, by gradually increasing authorized sworn staffing levels this fiscal year and over the next few fiscal years. This extends the original plan out one additional fiscal year.

The Sheriff proposes the following timeline to gradually reach 1.2 sworn officers per 1,000 residents by FY 18/19:

FY15/16- 1.08

FY 16/17-1.12

FY 17/18-1.16

FY 18/19-1.2 \*

\*one year later than the original 2013 plan

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**Fiscal Impact**

The estimated impact for this fiscal year to move from 1.04 to 1.08 sworn per 1,000 is not to exceed \$1.5m; a budget adjustment is not required at this time. We will brief the Board of our progress during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this fiscal year.

**Impact on Citizens and Businesses**

The increase of Sheriff's Department sworn staff to a level of 1.2 per 1,000 will help deal with the rising crime rates and increasing public safety concerns and expectations by shortening deputy response times, increased proactive policing resources, and reinstating Community Oriented Policing & Problem Solving (COPPS) resources in our unincorporated parts of the County. This will result in the increased safety of our residents, helps ensure the positive effects on the economic recovery of the County, and our local responsiveness to our unincorporated area communities by Sheriff's station commanders.