



PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF
CORONER-MARSHAL

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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

DEVON BELL
UNDERSHERIFF

To: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Edward N. Bonner, Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal
Edward N. Bonner
Date: November 5, 2013
Subject: Allocation Change – Physician

Action Requested

1. Approve the attached Allocation Ordinance amendment, deleting one Sheriff's Lieutenant and adding one Physician in the Sheriff's Support Services Division.
2. Authorize the Personnel Department to conduct an open recruitment for the Physician position, and the Sheriff to Extend an Offer of Employment once a candidate has been selected.

Background

Due to the backlog and volume of coroner's cases, it now takes about six months from the date of an autopsy to complete and finalize an investigation and issue a death certificate. The extended amount of time causes hardship for families who must wait for this certificate to receive life insurance benefits and conclude other matters associated with the deceased individual.

The Coroner's unit continues to see significant increases in complex death investigations in Placer and Nevada Counties. In 2012 our forensic pathologist, Dr. Henrikson, completed 400 autopsies. The American Medical Association (AMA) and the National Association of Medical Examiners (N.A.M.E.) recommends a forensic pathologist complete no more than 250 autopsies per year. The addition of one full time pathologist would allow Dr. Henrikson to finalize the current 103 open cases awaiting death certificates and eliminate the existing backlog.

Placer County currently has contracts in place with Nevada County and Sierra County to provide pathology services. These contracts yield approximately \$120,000 in combined annual revenue to help offset employee related costs of our existing forensic pathologist. With the potential addition of a second pathologist, Yuba County has also expressed interest in contracting for pathology services with Placer County beginning in FY 2014-15. Potential revenue from the Yuba County contract is estimated at approximately \$100,000 annually.

The Coroner's Unit currently utilizes Forensic Medical Group (FMG) to assist with backlogs associated with pathology services. Based on existing need, annual costs associated with continued use of the FMG service for FY 2013-14 are projected at approximately \$125,000; however, this does not provide a long term or cost effective solution. The ability to reduce or eliminate this contract would result in a potential savings of \$125,000 annually. If this savings and the revenue from Yuba County are realized, they would help offset the annual cost of the second pathologist (estimated at \$361,346), resulting in a net County cost of \$136,346 in FY 2014-15.

Fiscal Impact

All costs in FY 2013-14 will be borne by the Sheriff's Office budget. This additional expense will likely impact the Sheriff's Office ability to generate fund balance at year end. There is no impact to the General Fund.

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
the un-codified Allocation of Positions to Department Ordinance deleting one Sheriff's Lieutenant and adding one Physician allocation in the Sheriff's Office Appropriations.

Ordinance No: _____

First Reading: _____

The following **Ordinance** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Jim Holmes
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:
Clerk of said Board

Ann Holman

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF PLACER, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

That the un-codified Allocation of Positions to Department Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

(Additions to ordinance shown in bold and underlined, deletions shown with strike-through.)

Section 1. That the un-codified Allocation of Positions to Departments Ordinance is here by amended to read as follows:

SHERIFF			
	(f)	Support Services	
		Physician	4 <u>2</u>
		Sheriff's Lieutenant	2 <u>1</u>

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be effective the first day of the pay period 30 days following final passage.

Section 3. That this ordinance amendment is adopted as an un-codified ordinance.

