

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
September 15, 2005
9:30 A.M.

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Office of the District Attorney

Subject: Report Back: Cost Of Adding 1.0 Community Prosecutor Position For Downtown Sacramento And Potential Funding Sources

Contact: Cindy Besemer
Chief Deputy District Attorney, (916) 874-6556

BACKGROUND

During the first day of the County's Fiscal Year 2005-06 Final Budget deliberations, it was requested that the County Executive and District Attorney report back on the cost of providing community prosecution services to the Downtown Sacramento area.

DISCUSSION:

The Downtown Sacramento Partnership, a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of Sacramento's central business district has suggested to the Board of Supervisors that a criminal prosecutor from the District Attorney's Office dedicated to the downtown Sacramento area would be of great value and assistance to the Partnership in their efforts to combat crime and blight in the area bounded by H Street to the north, 16th Street to the east, N Street to the south, and the Sacramento River to the west. The mission of the Partnership is to establish downtown Sacramento as the vibrant arts, entertainment, business and cultural destination of the Greater Sacramento Region through effective public-private collaboration for the benefit of residents, visitors and investors. Their ability to achieve these goals requires quick and effective action by law enforcement to maintain a safe environment which in turn encourages business growth.

Currently, the District Attorney has assigned a Community Prosecutor to five (5) areas of the unincorporated area: Northeast (Orangevale, Fair Oaks, Carmichael), Northwest (Rio Linda, North Highlands, Elverta), Northcentral (Arden-Arcade, Auburn Boulevard), Central (unincorporated area of Oak Park, Stockton Boulevard) and one Community Prosecutor in the East area funded 60% by the City of Rancho Cordova the remainder by the General Fund for the unincorporated area.

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A Community Prosecutor assigned to the downtown area would work with the merchants, community members and residents to address quality of life concerns. This would include issues such as public inebriation in the downtown corridor, homeless population sleeping in the parks, gang members loitering on K Street, graffiti, and enforcement of trespass ordinances to keep individuals from loitering in front of businesses. In addition, a prosecutor would address the problems of parolees from the Greyhound Bus terminal infiltrating the mall, as well as drug dealing in and around Cesar Chavez Park.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:

The District Attorney's base budget cannot accommodate the addition of a dedicated community prosecutor for the downtown Sacramento area. However, should funding become available from the Downtown Partnership or other community organizations or agencies, the cost for one (1) Criminal Attorney (Level 5), including support services and supplies would be \$159,930. A breakdown of these costs is attached. Although this program could not be supported by the County's General Fund, the District Attorney has indicated that in order to commence the program in January of 2006, she is willing to reallocate \$10,000 from her FY2005-06 Final Budget to jump start the program. The remaining \$150,000 would need to be budgeted as revenue from outside sources. In addition, in order to properly staff the program, a three-year commitment of such funding would be necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

CONCUR:

JAN SCULLY
District Attorney

TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive

By: _____
GEOFFREY B. DAVEY
Chief Financial/Operations Officer

Attachment