



# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

- **BOB BROOKS**  
Sheriff
- **MARK BALL**  
Undersheriff

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December 15, 2009

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

**Subject:**      **Addition of Position and Establishment of Appropriations and Unanticipated Revenue Utilizing the Automated Fingerprint Identification Fund (Requires 4/5ths vote)**

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that your Board authorize:

1. The Director of Human Resources to establish the following regular position in Organization 4018, Sheriff's Forensic Services, effective December 13, 2009.

Job Code	Description	Business Unit	Department	FTE	Comp Frequency	Annual Salary Range
01953	Forensic Scientist III	SHFVC	4018	1.0	Hourly	\$66,979.39 - \$93,955.47

2. The Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions to adjust appropriations within the Sheriff's Police Services - Forensic Services Division, Organization 4018:

INCREASE Revenue – Forfeitures & Penalties	\$	82,699
INCREASE Salaries & Benefits	\$	52,699
INCREASE Services & Supplies	\$	30,000

**Fiscal Mandates / Impact:**

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	Trust Fund 6240-7581, Automated Fingerprint

Funding Match Required: None  
Impact on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenue/Total Costs	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Revenue	\$ 82,699	\$ 124,833
Costs		
Direct Cost	\$ 82,699	\$ 124,833
Indirect Cost- Department	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect Cost – County CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Net County Costs Including Indirects	\$ 0	\$ 0

**Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections:**

<b>Current FY 2009-10 Budget Projection for Police Services 4000</b>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget <sup>1</sup>	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$132,655,655	\$135,509,422	\$135,509,422	\$ 0
Revenue	\$ 73,085,577	\$ 74,408,493	\$ 74,408,493	\$ 0
Net Cost	\$ 59,570,078	\$ 61,100,929	\$ 61,100,929	\$ 0

As of November 23, 2009

**Discussion:**

Earlier this year, in response to the needs of our clients, the Firearms and Toolmarks Section of the Forensic Sciences Laboratory instituted a Rapid Imaging Program (RIP) for the entry of fired evidence (bullets and cartridge cases) from crime scenes into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) database. The intent of the RIP is to provide law enforcement with investigative leads within 24 hours of a shooting incident, when the likelihood of apprehension is higher, and thereby, preventing subsequent crimes. In effect for less than a year, this program has already been instrumental in linking a number of previously apparently unrelated crimes, particularly those related to gang activities.

For instance, through RIP, the shooting at an unoccupied vehicle in unincorporated Ventura County was linked to a gang-related homicide in the city of Ventura within hours of the Laboratory's receipt of the evidence. In another instance, evidence from an armed robbery and attempted homicide of a Ventura liquor store owner was linked to the firearm used in an officer-involved-shooting in Los Angeles County. The impact of this effort has been an immediate improvement in the safety of the citizens of Ventura County.

Our experience with the Rapid Imaging Program has highlighted the need for improving the processing of fingerprint evidence on recovered and seized firearms. Since the test

firing of weapons for NIBIN processing can damage fingerprint evidence, they must be processed for fingerprints first. Due to lack of funding and personnel, there have not been sufficient resources to address this problem in the past, even though such treatment of the evidence is likely to provide investigative leads for unsolved shootings. Our lack of capacity in our firearms section to accomplish this has established a chokepoint for the Rapid Imaging Program.

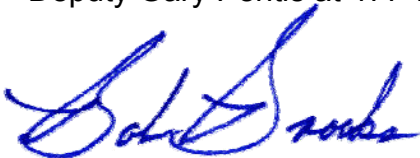
Our partner law enforcement agencies within Ventura County have indicated that there may be in excess of 3000 backlogged firearms awaiting NIBIN entry, most of which have not been processed for fingerprints. The approval of this request will allow us to provide expedited processing to all law enforcement agencies in Ventura County and to begin to bring down the backlog of unprocessed cases.

A recent Division reorganization brought Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) and Latent Fingerprint examination under the Forensic Sciences Laboratory. These units are outside the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). This system manages the workflow and distributes the work product of all areas of the Forensic Sciences Laboratory, currently with the exception of CSI and Latent Fingerprinting. Integrating these operations into the work of the laboratory will require the addition of a Latent Prints/Crime Scene module into our existing Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). Our current LIMS vendor can provide a completely seamless integration for this casework that will also allow the entry and reporting of all the casework performed by the Latent Prints (CAL-ID) unit for \$30,000.00. The current client reporting system for CAL-ID is a slow, manual, paper system that will be overwhelmed by the reporting requirements for the additional casework generated as a result of the Rapid Imaging Program. Through an upgrade to the Laboratory's electronic client reporting system (CLMS), the LIMS vendor can fold all the CAL-ID reporting into a fully automated reporting system that includes all the county law enforcement agencies and provides the agencies with a report as soon as the case report has been reviewed and approved by the Laboratory.

We are requesting the addition of one Forensic Scientist III position to be assigned to the Firearms and Toolmarks Section of the Forensic Sciences Laboratory and the addition of the Latent Print/Crime Scene module to be integrated with the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). We are proposing to fund this request through the County Automated Fingerprint Identification Fund (CAL-ID) that was established in September of 1987 to offset local expense for equipment and ongoing costs of automated fingerprint collection and processing. The trust is funded through a penalty assessment on fines in criminal cases. The legislature broadened the scope of the County Automated Fingerprint Identification Fund in 1995 to include digital mug shot systems and booking identification facilities as authorized uses. We originally funded our CAL-ID Equipment and Livescan fingerprint stations through this fund. As those systems became more complex and expensive the State provided other mechanisms for State-mandated expansion of CAL-ID – LIVESCAN, allowing the opportunity to

address the current problem. We currently fund our countywide digital mug shot system and a technician who processes latent prints into CAL-ID from this fund. The addition of this request will comply with the legislative intent of these funds and remains within the ability of the fund to support the expenditure on an annual basis. Given that this request is to add a position to be supported by the Fingerprint Trust Fund (CAL-ID), should the Trust Fund become unable to continue to support the position, it will end unless additional funding is made available. After this request of \$82,699, this Trust Fund will have a projected FY ending 09-10 balance of \$453,127.

The Offices of the County Executive, County Counsel, Auditor-Controller and Human Resources have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Chief Deputy Gary Pentis at 477-7011.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Brooks", is positioned above the printed name and title.

BOB BROOKS  
Ventura County Sheriff