

Public Safety and Law Enforcement -- DRAFT

Office of the Sheriff/House of Corrections

- **Reform public safety to improve offender accountability, improve public safety and better serve Milwaukee County residents by:**
 - Create a **unified and seamless correctional system** in Milwaukee County by transferring the management and operations of the House of Corrections facilities and programs to the Office of the Sheriff. The transfer will improve offender accountability and enhance support of correctional facility staff by ensuring the standardization of policies and procedures among all Milwaukee County correctional facilities and programs; providing consistent training, management, support and safety to correctional staff across all facilities and improving the ability to balance offender populations housed in County detention facilities or placed on home detention by creating a seamless correctional system.
 - Transferring authority to administer the **Home Detention/Huber Work Release** programs to the Sheriff
 - Closure the aging **Community Correctional Center (CCC)** and transfer approximately 360 inmates to the Home Detention program, the Huber work release program that will be administered from the Criminal Justice Facility (CJF) or the existing House of Corrections facility.
 - Creation of an **Absconders Unit** in the Office of the Sherriff to ensure the quick arrest of offenders who violate the terms of their home detention
 - Implementation of a **Universal Screening** program to ensure the sharing of critical offender information among prosecutors, judges and law enforcement so that offenders are held accountable throughout Milwaukee County's criminal justice system.
- **Fully fund the House of Corrections** with no dorm closures during 2009 and ease inmate housing pressures by increasing the bed space from 60 beds per dorm to 64 beds per dorm and place any inmate within one month of release and no disciplinary issues onto home detention under the Sheriff's supervision.
- Discontinue funding for the **Community Justice Resource Center** and job development and readiness contracts in order to fully fund increased wage and benefit costs, increased inmate meal costs, additional inmate drug testing, increased offender medical costs and fuel and utility costs and to cover re-estimated revenues related to home detention and inmate telephone commissions in the House of Corrections. The Community Justice Resource Center was intended to serve as alternative to incarceration by providing offender services at a community based location. However most inmates participating in these programs have been sentenced to the House of Corrections.
- Increase tax levy support for the Sheriff's Office by more than **\$2.8 million to fund increased expenses** for wage increases, fringe benefit increases, fuel and utilities,

offender medical cost increases, the loss of state and federal grants, law enforcement equipment and reductions to federal inmate revenues and inmate phone revenues.

- Maintain full staffing and operations of the County's **911 Dispatch Center** by providing increased property tax support to Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center to backfill for the loss of approximately loss of \$800,000 in state grant funding and create 5.0 FTE Communications/Dispatcher positions to promptly investigate dropped cellular calls. Dispatchers are currently performing these investigations on overtime.
- Provide \$1.3 million in levy support for **Expressway Patrol** to ensure continued 24-hr highway safety and emergency assistance to motorists.
- Maintain approximately \$3.1 million in levy funds for staffing and equipment for the Sheriff's Office **Targeted Enforcement Unit** for enhanced patrols in high-need areas of the County. The recommended funding will provide for a Tactical Enforcement Unit consisting of 25 deputy sheriffs, and 2 sergeants.
- Increase levy support for **Park Patrols** by \$71,000 to \$3.4 million.
- Provide more than \$7.3 million for **Airport Security** by providing 59 Deputy Sheriffs (including four K-9 Units), 6 Sergeants, 1 Captain for patrols and security duties at General Mitchell International Airport.
- Continue to provide \$270,000, including \$150,000 in tax levy funds for the Milwaukee High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and \$485,000, all tax levy funds, for the Drug Enforcement Unit.
- Increase funding for **law enforcement equipment** by providing \$482,600 for dashboard digital video cameras in squad cars and for the purchase of six additional squad cars for expressway patrol and tactical enforcement.
- Increased levy support \$675,000 to a total of \$16.5 million to **fully fund the medical expenses** at the County Jail and House of corrections including funding for lab testing fees, outside medical service fees at clinics and hospitals and prescription drug costs.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Fully fund **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** by providing \$7.5 million and maintain current levels of supplemental payments to municipalities.

Courts

- **Property tax support** for the State Court system increases by almost 2.0 million to reflect the continued shifting of State court costs to counties. Milwaukee County taxpayers will contribute approximately \$38.7 million in property tax funds to support Combined Court Related Operations in 2009.
- **Guardian ad Litem** costs required to protect the rights of minors in the legal process are projected to increase \$385,000. Since state funding for these costs has not increased, additional property tax levy is allocated for this purpose.

- **Psychiatric services** costs are projected to increase \$125,000. In the absence of additional state funding, these increased costs will be covered with property tax levy.
- **Eliminate funding for 25 positions** in the Courts that are not required by State Statute in order to minimize the impact of increasing costs and declining State support for the court system on Milwaukee County taxpayers.
- Enhance **Courthouse Security** by increasing funding for bailiff security services by \$100,000 bringing total county-provided bailiff funding to \$9.6 million annually and providing funding of \$246,200 for the installation of bullet resistant glazing walls in courtrooms.
- Provide \$608,000 for mid-year implementation of a **Universal Screening** initiative. This initiative will provide screenings and assessments for evaluation of offenders upon entrance into the Court system. The information gathered will enable the various agencies within the criminal justice system to make more effective decisions regarding offender needs and sentencing.

District Attorney

- Provide additional funding of approximately \$345,000 for the creation of a **Witness Protection** program to protect the safety and security of crime victims and witnesses and to ensure that offenders who threaten, intimidate or harm victims and witnesses are swiftly prosecuted and punished. The program will be staffed by 5.0 FTE District Attorney investigator positions and will ensure that victims and witnesses feel safe to testify and cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of criminals.
- Provide additional funding of approximately \$35,000 for **law enforcement equipment** including radio upgrades to ensure adequate support for criminal investigations.

Medical Examiner

- Add \$200,000 in funding for an additional **assistant medical examiner** to maintain department operations and support necessary investigations.
- Continue to provide **autopsy services** to other organizations including the Medical College of Wisconsin, Ozaukee and other counties.

Human Services Juvenile Corrections

- Increase levy support for the **Delinquency and Court Services** Division by \$1.7 million from \$17.0 million to \$18.7 million to continue services in the Children's Court and Juvenile Detention Center.
- Provide funding for the **Firearm Offender Supervision Program** and continue support 70 slots in 2009. This program has been successful in diverting adjudicated delinquents from placement in State facilities.

- Maintain current service levels for intensive **juvenile community-based treatment** and supervision services as an alternative to placing adjudicated juveniles in costly State institutions and for operations of the Juvenile Detention Center. [Includes Wraparound, Level II Supervision Program and Serious Chronic Offender Program]
- Provide 6.0 FTE additional juvenile corrections officers in order to reduce reliance on overtime, increase safety for officers and offenders and improve employee morale.