



COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
3026 South California Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60608

November 12, 2020

Honorable John P. Daley, Chairman
Cook County Board of Commissioners, Finance Committee
118 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Daley:

Thank you for sending us Commissioner Anaya's questions from the Sheriff's recent FY21 budget presentation. Please find our responses below.

- 1. On Page O-12, Administration, 14925 Human Resources Administration, I notice that there is a decrease in FTEs from 4 to 0. What type of impact will this have on human resources in your office?**

These were open positions that we needed to eliminate in order to reach the budget target given to us by the County. In FY21, we will require nonunion civilian employees in Human Resources to take on more responsibilities throughout the office.

- 2. Page O-47, Community Corrections, shows 82 FTEs for the Investigator II Intern Supervisor. Can you please describe the main responsibilities of this position and why this number of FTEs with the same title is needed?**

These are EM Investigator positions. Please note, the title as listed in the budget book is a standardized union title. These are not actually management positions; "Intern Supervisor" refers to "supervising" EM participants. The main responsibilities of this position include ensuring participants comply with the rules and regulations of the program, maintaining contact with participants, investigating alerts and verifying and authorizing movement requests. We have 82 positions but, as the Sheriff stated during his budget presentation, we actually need more positions given the large increase in the EM population since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

- 3. Page O-51, Department of Corrections, Contractual Services, indicates that there will be a decrease of \$3,008,532 in contractual services. What types of contracts will be impacted?**

This decrease is primarily driven by a reduction in the food service contract of \$1.79M, housing at outside counties of \$720K, and special or coop programs of \$437K. The food service reduction corresponds with the reduction in population, we have reduced the number of detainees being housed at outside counties, and detainee programming is being administered by Sheriff's Office staff as opposed to using an outside vendor.

- 4. On Page O-54, 16875, DOC Operational Support Command, there are 4 FTEs being added for FY2021 for Assistant Executive Director of Operational Support Command. Please describe the responsibilities of this role any why these positions are needed even though there has been an overall decrease in the jail population.**

Our overall FTE count was reduced by 306 positions. These are not positions being added, rather they were transferred to Operational Support Command to allow for increased supervision due to the additional 420+ posts per day that were necessary to mitigate and control COVID-19 in the jail.

- 5. In today's budget presentation, Sheriff Dart mentioned that he supports the Justice Advisory Council's initiative to study best practices on electronic monitoring and even if the majority of electronic monitoring moves to the Office of the Chief Judge, he would still like part of it, especially for detainees under certain programs. Since the transition to GPS monitors has already begun, I would like clarification if, at this point, all persons ordered to electronic monitoring are being placed with the GPS monitors, or only those under the programs the Sheriff referenced.**

Yes, at this point, all new EM participants are placed on GPS rather than RF. Currently, there are more than 1,800 participants on GPS, approximately 55% of the total EM population.

- 6. There were numerous questions today on mental health programs managed by the Sheriff's Office. Are Sheriff's staff or vendors contracted with the Sheriff's Office who are directly providing these services required to comply with HIPAA?**

As non-healthcare programs, the mental health programs managed by CCSO are not subject to HIPAA. However, CCSO is committed to ensuring appropriate privacy and confidentiality protection. If an individual is in one of our in-custody programs, they sign a Release of Information (ROI) form that complies with privacy guidelines. An example ROI form for the SMART Program is attached here. This allows Sheriff's Office programs staff to share specific protected information (i.e., status in treatment with the courts, etc.) only with authorized individuals or entities. No client treatment information is shared with correctional staff and client records are filed separately and appropriately.

Correctional staff only receive "need to know information" that is shared between the CCSO electronic jail management system (CCOMS) and Cermak's electronic system (Cerner). The Sheriff's Office civilian staff who provide programming services do not share any individualized information unless an ROI is completed, which is always limited in scope. Information sharing is limited to treatment and discharge planning as well as programming status updates to the court.

Thank you for forwarding these responses to Commissioner Anaya and the Board. We are grateful for your support during these challenging times and look forward to continuing to work together for all Cook County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brad Curry".

Brad Curry
Chief of Staff