

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

OCTOBER 1, 2002

Currently, the Sheriff's Department has 10 criminalists who perform DNA testing and a backlog of 700 DNA homicide cases. The Sheriff's crime lab currently receives 60 to 80 DNA kits per month for cases involving violent assaults and homicides. On average, one criminalist can perform 2 DNA analyses per month. If the issue is not addressed immediately, the backlog will continue.

The Chief Administrative Officer and the Sheriff have recommended the hiring of five additional senior criminalists to perform "front end" work on DNA homicide kits and contracting out to a private lab for the actual testing. This plan is estimated to cost \$2.5 million for the first fiscal year and \$1.6 million each year thereafter. It is estimated that the current backlog will take three years to work through.

In an April 13, 2002, motion, the Sheriff's Department was requested to identify a funding source and provide a timeline to address the DNA backlog. In a May 16 memo to the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff states that due to current budget constraints, he cannot identify any funding for this purpose.

In the last two years, the Sheriff's Department has received more that \$30 million in supplemental funding in the Narcotics Forfeiture Fund. This fund may be used to hire personnel and to address the DNA backlog. As of March 31, 2002, the Narcotics Forfeiture Fund had a fund balance of \$961,542.

DNA analysis is vital to ensuring that violent offenders are not left to prey on innocent victims and that innocent people are not sent to prison. Backlogs in DNA homicide cases prevent justice from being served.

- MORE -

MOTION

Molina \_\_\_\_\_

Burke \_\_\_\_\_

Knabe \_\_\_\_\_

Antonovich \_\_\_\_\_

Yaroslavsky \_\_\_\_\_

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors:

1. approve a \$2.5 million budget augmentation from the Designations for Budgetary Uncertainties Fund to the Sheriff's Department for fiscal year 2002-2003 to address the DNA homicide backlog;
2. request the Sheriff to identify and reserve \$1.6 million in funding from the Narcotics Forfeiture Fund in fiscal years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 to address the DNA homicide backlog;
3. request the Sheriff's Department to re-assess the costs of fully staffing the DNA section of the new crime lab, with estimates based on placing DNA analysts on different "shifts", which would minimize the estimated increase in equipment and space costs in the new crime lab.

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MDA:jhp

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