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## INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 319, Mason, Michigan 48854 Telephone (517) 676-7200 Fax (517) 676-7264

THE LAW AND COURTS COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON **THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015**  
AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE PERSONNEL CONFERENCE ROOM (D & E), HUMAN SERVICES  
BUILDING, 5303 S. CEDAR, LANSING.

**NOTE CHANGE IN DATE**

### Agenda

Call to Order  
Additions to the Agenda  
Limited Public Comment

	Budget Book Section-Page
1. <u>Budget Hearings</u>	
a. Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad.....	5-233
b. <u>Sheriff</u> .....	5-168
1. Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.....	5-116
c. Prosecuting Attorney.....	5-135
d. <u>Probate Court</u> .....	5-130
e. Ingham County 911 Central Dispatch Center .....	5-108
f. District Court .....	5-94
g. Community Corrections.....	5-11
h. Circuit Court	
1. Jury Administration .....	5-126
2. Friend of the Court Division.....	5-86
3. <u>Family Division</u> .....	5-30
4. General Trial .....	5-15
i. <u>Animal Control</u> .....	5-1
2. Final Ranking	

Announcements  
Public Comment  
Adjournment

**PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC  
DEVICES OR SET TO MUTE OR VIBRATE TO AVOID  
DISRUPTION DURING THE MEETING**

The County of Ingham will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting for the visually impaired, for individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five (5) working days notice to the County of Ingham. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Ingham in writing or by calling the following: Ingham County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 319, Mason, MI 48854 Phone: (517) 676-7200. A quorum of the Board of Commissioners may be in attendance at this meeting. Meeting information is also available on line at [www.ingham.org](http://www.ingham.org).

**Agenda Item 1b**

DATE: August 18, 2015  
TO: Law & Courts Committee  
FROM: Sheriff Gene L. Wriggelsworth  
RE: Z List Items from the Sheriff's Office

Dear Commissioners:

I would greatly appreciate your consideration in funding the positions I have attached. They will go a long way in helping me provide the level of public safety our citizens expect and deserve.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Sheriff Gene L. Wriggelsworth

## **2016 SERVICE ENHANCEMENT**

### **General Description**

The Ingham County Sheriff's Office will be requesting a service enhancement to support its Field Services Division. The factors and circumstances leading to this request are quite well known. Since 2007 the Sheriff's Office has had staffing reductions equaling 39 full-time employees; 34 of those from the general fund. In two recent budget years four of those positions have been replaced; a Field Services Sergeant, a Corrections Deputy, a Field Service Deputy and one Detective. Presently the Sheriff's Office is still operating with 30 fewer general fund full-time employees; eight of those positions were supervisory positions.

The Sheriff's Office is requesting the service enhancement for 2016 include one Field Services Sergeant; Field Service night shift Deputy and one Detective. These additional staff would help support the very minimal law enforcement presence that the Sheriff's Office now provides. It would increase response time to calls for service, provide greater safety and back-up to the Deputies in the field, and increase enforcement of state and local laws. Persons living within the four corners of Ingham County and those traveling through the county from other parts of the state would be safer due to an increased presence, however minimal it may be, that these three additional staff would provide.

### **Service Impacts**

#### **1. Deputy**

Presently the county funds 14 full-time positions to provide law enforcement services to the general law townships; however these Deputies are also called upon to assist Deputies in our contracted police service areas of Delhi Township and Webberville and additionally respond to calls for service in Mason, Leslie, Stockbridge, Williamston, as well as Meridian Township, Lansing, East Lansing and Michigan State University.

Some proof of the reduction in staff lies in arrests made by Deputies. In 2007 Deputies made 3,445 arrests; in 2014 Deputies made 1,996 arrests. Of those, 221 drunk driving arrests were made in 2007 and 149 drunk driving arrests were made in 2014. This is a grave reduction in drunk driving arrests. Drunk drivers make the roads very unsafe for all who travel them and lead to unnecessary fatalities on our roadways. In 2013 out county deputies conducted 7,568 vehicle stops and issued 3800 citations. In 2014 out county deputies conducted 8,313 vehicle stops and issued 4,369 citations.

#### **2. Detective**

The Ingham County Sheriff's Office is requesting the Board of Commissioners authorize the funding for an additional Detective position. The Sheriff's Office will dedicate 2

detectives (one existing position and one new position) and create a Special Victim's Unit dedicated to the investigation of Child Abuse and Adult Sexual Assault. Hundreds of children and adults are the victims of sexual violence annually in Ingham County. Most people never tell. When a child or adult has the strength to report their experiences against all odds, the Sheriff's Office has the duty to respond professionally to investigate and bring predators to justice.

The Ingham County Sheriff's Office has established itself as a leader in the county in these special victim crimes. Detective Annie Harrison was promoted in 2011 and began taking the bulk of these investigations. The Sheriff's Office has invested in her training which has had a direct effect on increased prosecutions and removing dangerous offenders from the community.

**Case Summary for Detective Harrison:**

In 2013 Detective Harrison investigated of 96 cases of child abuse, adult sexual assault and child death. Of these cases, 18 were to assist other agencies in the county who do not have trained investigators; or the investigation crossed jurisdictions within the county.

In 2014 she investigated of 92 cases of child abuse, adult sexual assault and child death. Of these cases, 17 were to assist other agencies in the county who do not have trained investigators; or the investigation crossed jurisdictions within the county.

In 2012 she conducted 83 forensic interviews of children; in 2013 she conducted 58; and in 2014 she conducted 54.

In 2013 and 2014, Detective Harrison sent 16 sex offenders to prison, 7 to jail and 3 to juvenile facilities. Many more are awaiting prosecution.

**The Problem:**

In addition to Detective Harrison's work, approximately 20 cases per year are being assigned to other Detectives.

Detective Harrison's backlog of cases can go back over 8 months. She runs an active case load of approximately 50 open felony level cases.

This backlog is simply unacceptable. The bulk of the caseload is cases of child sexual abuse. These children, the most vulnerable in our community, deserve a specialized unit of highly trained detectives to investigate their cases in a more timely fashion.

**The Solution:**

The Ingham County Sheriff's Office is a leader in the investigation of these crimes; particularly child sexual assault. The Sheriff's Office routinely investigates these sensitive and complex cases on behalf of the smaller agencies in the county who do not have trained investigators in this area. Detective Harrison has shown the impact a

quality investigation can have in protecting the community. The next step is the creation of a Sheriff's Office Special Victim Unit with two dedicated detectives.

**Cases Highlights:**

Here is just a sample of the cases that Detective Harrison has investigated. Many of these offenders have a long history of not being held accountable for their crimes prior to being investigated by Detective Harrison:

*Lawrence Frederick Gibbs*, a 58 year old registered sex offender, was sentenced to 25 to 50 years in prison for the sexual assault of 4 young men. During the 2 week trial, 11 men and boys testified that they were assaulted by Gibbs. There were more victims that did not testify. The dates of crimes ranged from the 1970s to 2011. The over 40 year span of horrific sexual abuse has come to an end.

*Michael Paul Bensinger*, a 21 year old, was sentenced to 3.75 years to 25 years for the rape of a 15 year old girl in Webberville. While at the Ingham County Jail Bensinger attempted to escape. Further, Bensinger had two other sexual assault reports on file at the Sheriff's Office, and those prior acts were used as evidence in this crime.

*Jordan John Glaspie*, a 19 year old, was sentenced to 1 year jail for the rape of a 14 year old friend. While out on bond awaiting sentencing, the suspect was arrested in Livingston County for another sexual assault.

*Craig Raymond Ford*, a 40 year old, was sentenced to 6.75 to 25 years for the kidnapping and rape of a Lansing woman. After being picked up in Lansing, the woman was driven by Ford to a remote location on Harper Rd where she was raped and left on the side of the road. She fled to a neighbor's house and called 911. Police located Ford fleeing the scene, arrested him and he confessed that night.

*Frederick Arthur Nash*, a 77 year old male with a previous prison sentence for the sexual abuse of his 11 year old adopted daughter, was sentenced to 14 to 30 years for the sexual abuse of another victim. Nash confessed to a life long history of sexual abuse.

*Dantae Michael Buckner*, a 22 year old, was sentenced to 3 ½ to 10 years for the sexual assault of his 13 year old stepsister. During the investigation the suspect went to Texas, where he was later arrested on the sexual assault warrant working at a Children's Shoe Store and extradited. The suspect faced 7 counts of criminal sexual conduct; however a week-long trial in August that resulted in a hung jury. So the victim would not have to endure a second trial, the prosecutor negotiated a plea to Assault with Intent to commit CSC and Accosting a Child for Immoral Purposes, which resulted in a prison sentence.

*Alvin Kushmaul*, a 55 year old Aurelius Twp man, was sentenced to 6.25 to 20 years MDOC for the on-going sexual abuse of his 9 year old niece. This investigation began when the child disclosed to a teacher after a lesson in class about personal safety. An

investigation began immediately, that ultimately resulted in obtaining a confession from the suspect after an interrogation.

*Brandon Turner*, a 41 year old, was sentenced to 4.3 years to 15 years prison for the sexual assault of his 16 year old stepdaughter. This case began in January 2012 and because the victim was incapacitated during the assault, we had to wait for the crime lab analysis. After approximately a year, the DNA results came back linking the suspect.

*Timothy Fagan*, a 20 year old male was sentenced to 2 years 8 months to 15 years prison for the rape of his step-sister. The day after the rape, he wrote an apology letter and turned himself in to police and provided a confession. He had been enlisted in the military and was discharged based upon his conviction.

*Nizam Qureshi*, a 36 year old, was found guilty on 3 counts of CSC at jury trial. He was sentenced by Judge Draganchuk to 57-180 months prison. Qureshi sexually abused his step-daughter over a 4 year period. This case crossed jurisdictional lines; the child was abused in both Lansing Twp and Meridian Twp.

*Theodore Boyd*, a 38 year old, pleaded guilty to CSC and was sentenced to 1 year jail, 5 years probation and lifetime sex offender registry. This case was very challenging. He sexually abused his step-daughter and she was so traumatized that she couldn't talk during the forensic interview about the crime. This case began with Williamston PD.

*Mandy Ryan*, a 33 year old, pleaded guilty to CSC and was sentenced to 1 year jail, 5 years probation and lifetime sex offender registry. She sexually abused her boyfriend's son and engaged in sexually explicit messaging. This case began with Leslie PD.

*Danny Burch*, a 64 year old, pleaded guilty to CSC and was sentenced to 180-270 months prison. He sexually abused his granddaughter. During the investigation Detective Harrison was able to locate 3 prior act victims (his two nephews and a niece.) Trial began with strong testimony. Just as the Prosecutor announced the victim would be the next witness, Danny Burch clutched his chest and was taken to the hospital for chest pains. In the best interest of all and to avoid mistrial, the Prosecutor allowed for a plea during the trial. He will likely spend the rest of his life in prison. This case began with MSP.

*James Stanley*, a 40 year old, was sentenced to 20-30 years prison for the sexual abuse of his 11 year old daughter. When the family lived in both Ingham and Livingston County, James Stanley "punished" his daughter (for normal childhood misbehavior) by forcing her to take soap and his penis in her mouth. He forced oral sex and ejaculated in her mouth on multiple occasions over a several year period. This investigation began in Livingston County; Det Shutes received a confession from the suspect. He was also sentenced in Livingston County to 15-20 years, concurrent.

*Daniel Bates*, a 37 year old, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 9 to 40 years for the sexual abuse of his step-daughter and niece. The reports were taken in 2003 and 2006 by the Sheriff's Office, but were not prosecuted. In 2012 a family member requested a copy of the police report and Detective Harrison became aware of the cases. She read the report and was outraged that this suspect was not punished. She located a third victim who disclosed sexual abuse as well. After a lengthy investigation and then subsequent review by the Prosecutor's Office, a warrant was issued for his arrest. He was extradited from California. Prior to the prelim, the suspect attempted to intimidate witnesses into not appearing. All the victim's ultimately testified and the case was bound over on 10 counts of CSC. The suspect pleaded guilty just prior to trial.

*Nathaniel Morrice*, a 37 year old, was found guilty a jury trial and sentenced to 25-50 years prison. Nathaniel Morrice orally, vaginally and anally raped his step-daughter between the ages of 5 and 12 years old at their Dansville home.

*Joseph Wing*, a 34 year old, pleaded guilty to CSC, and was sentenced to 1 year jail, SOR and tether. This case was initially taken by Lansing Twp approximately 10 years ago, prior to the creation of the children's assessment center. The victim was 5 years old at the time and did not disclose to Detectives. The victim came forward as a 16 year old and disclosed of physical and sexual abuse at the hands of her mother's boyfriend, Joseph Wing.

*Federico Alvarado*, a 71 year old, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 1 year jail, in-patient alcohol, SOR and lifetime tether. Alvarado sexually abused his neighbor's 8 year old daughter, who he lured into his garage when she was out riding her bike.

*Chad Mogg*, a 36 year old, pleaded guilty to CSC and was sentenced 36-180 months prison for the sexual abuse of his roommate's 13 year old daughter. This case began with Lansing Twp.

#### **County Wide Efforts:**

Detective Harrison participates in teams, case review and has an active role in the overall community / police response to crimes of sexual violence. She participates in the following:

##### *Teams/Committees*

- Chair of Child Death Review
- Member of Capital Area Sexual Assault Response Team
- Sexual Assault Model Policy Group – Taskforce to develop policy for the state
- Team Member, Small Talk Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

*Small Talk Children's Assessment Center.* Detective Harrison is a founding member of Small Talk, the location where children are interviewed and offered free counseling during the process. She plays a significant role, including the following accomplishments:

- Multiple media, teaching and speaking engagements to advance training for law enforcement and public education
- Small Talk is now nationally accredited through the National Children's Alliance – a first for Ingham County.
- Sits on the Executive Board for Small Talk and Chairs the Fund Committee
- Is a primary accredited forensic interviewer for Small Talk (assists other agencies without their own interviewer)
- Sits on the Executive Board for the Child Abuse Prevention

**The Future:**

The Ingham County Sheriff's Office is a proven leader in the investigation of these crimes.

Research and national data tell us that only 1 in 10 children report sexual abuse and over 90% of perpetrators never face any consequences. We can do better than that in Ingham County. Having a Special Victim's Unit will send a clear message to victim's it is safe to report; to the community that we respond professionally with well trained investigators; and to offenders that they will be held accountable.

One additional detective is necessary to properly investigate these cases.

**3. Sergeant**

The addition of the Sergeant would allow for more constant supervision of the Deputies providing law enforcement services. Presently, Sergeants from other parts of the Sheriff's Office are called upon to supervise the Deputies in the field but this is not on a frequent enough basis to insure constant and consistent supervision. The Sergeants also respond to calls for service which is uncommon for a county our size.

**Cost Benefit/Analysis**

The cost to add one Sergeant, one Detective and one Deputy are as follows:

	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Topped Out</u>
Deputy	\$69,938	\$89,200
Detective	\$94,265	\$101,862
Sergeant	\$153,886	\$161,852
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$318,089</b>	<b>\$352,914</b>

It is doubtful the request for service enhancement will lead to any long term or short term savings; however the increased traffic enforcement subsequent to the addition of the previous Deputy should lead to increased revenue for the 55<sup>th</sup> District Court.

There is no doubt these additions to the Sheriff's Office staff will lead to enhanced public safety, enhanced safety for the Deputies, Police Officers and State Troopers who are performing these very dangerous duties, and lead to the arrest of more criminals throughout all of Ingham County.

# MEMORANDUM

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TO: Law and Courts Committee

FROM: George M. Strander  
Probate Court Administrator & Probate Register

DATE: August 19, 2015

RE: Request to Restore Full-Time Position

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The Probate Court is requesting an addition of \$21,678 in strategic planning funds (Z list) to our 2016 General Fund (GF) budget in order to support the conversion of our half-time Deputy Probate Register position to full-time. We do not view this as a standard new position request, but rather see it as a way to regain a full-time position we had but lost to budget cuts.

Over the last several years, the Probate Court has experienced a 25% reduction in its Deputy-Probate-Register/Investigator staff in the Probate office. We once had five Deputy Probate Registers along with a Court Investigator. Now, and for some time, we have had no Investigator and only 4.5 FTE of a Deputy Probate Register.

And as our office staff has reduced and stayed at the current lower level, our total caseload (since 2008) has increased 10%. Moreover, we are having to rely more and more on externs to handle required duties, which is a problematic model given the inability to predict how many externs we will have in any given term and their relatively low level of initial expertise with Probate law and our case management system.

We are holding more hearings, processing more receipts, and appointing more guardians ad litem. The lag time on our processing of paperwork has increased. And our guardianship

numbers are mushrooming, making us concerned this may herald the “silver tsunami” so many experts predict with the aging of the massive Baby Boomer generation.

All of the evidence would argue to our office having **more** positions to handle the work we have now vis-à-vis the work we had prior. Yet, we now actually have **fewer** positions. Converting our half-time Deputy Probate Register position to full-time would go towards providing us with the resources we need to handle the work we must perform.

Additionally, our request, if approved, would be both easily implemented and modest. We already have the workstation, computer, and phone resources established for our half-time Deputy Probate Register position, and all of these would be used by the full-time position. Also, at a little over \$20,000, this addition would represent a relatively small personnel expense.

From an equity perspective, it should also be noted that other court GF budgets are recommended by the Controller to receive much in excess of what the Probate Court is scheduled to receive. According to the Controller Recommended Budget Summary, the GF Budget for the Circuit Court/Friend of the Court is scheduled to receive a 13.3% increase, that of the Circuit Court Family Division/Child Care Fund a 2.2% increase, that of the Circuit Court Family Division/GF a 7.0% increase, and that of the District Court a 2.1% increase. The Probate Court, however, with a total GF budget under \$1.5 million, is recommended to receive only a 0.6% increase.

It should also be noted that over the last several years, as we have lost staff, and as our overall caseload has increased, we have taken several cost-reducing steps in attorney and guardian-ad-litem appointments through contracts, thereby saving us and the county tens of thousands of dollars each year. Given this entire context, we see our request as highly warranted.

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Law and Courts Committee

FROM: Maureen Winslow

DATE: August 18, 2015

RE: **2016 Z List Request**

The Family Division respectfully requests the placement of Court Information Clerk on the Z List for the 2016 budget.

## **General Description**

The Ingham County Circuit Court Family Division would like to restore the other half of the Court Information Clerk position that was eliminated in the 2012 budget. The Court Information Clerk position was a Shared Time position when one of the two employees retired in 2011. Given the necessity for General Fund budget reductions, the Family Division agreed to eliminate the vacant half, leaving it for staff in other positions to cover.

The Court Information Clerk is the first person the public communicates with who need to do business in the Family Division. Currently, the position includes an employee who works 40 hours in a 2 week pay period. The other 40 hours are filled by rotating other staff at the reception desk, greeting the public, answering phones, and assisting those that are unsure or unaware of their hearing times, locations and with whom they need to meet. It has proven to be a hardship on those employees as they have many other job duties of their own. Attempting to do their work at the front desk is neither efficient nor productive due to the number of distractions, leaving concentration at a minimum. The employees called upon to cover the Court Information Clerk duties include the Executive Assistant, Scheduling Clerk, Juvenile Data Coordinator, Court Recorders and Unit Secretaries, all at a higher pay scale. Their assigned job duties that cannot be performed at the front desk due to an inability to concentrate include financial reconciliations, data analysis, court transcript production, scheduling hearings on abuse and neglect cases etc.

## **Service Impacts**

Service for the citizens of Ingham County would improve by having consistency in the position of Court Information Clerk which will enhance customer service. Often, members of the public exit the elevator in front of our lobby and are unsure of where they need to go.

Further, the work production from those employees who have to leave their job duties to fill in at the front desk would increase as they will be able to work more efficiently. This would be measured by the increase in productivity and a decrease in the number of errors made given the lack of concentration.

**Cost/Benefit Analysis**

In order to fill the other half of this position, the Family Division is requesting **\$23,505**. It is anticipated these costs will continue beyond 2016. Employee production will increase and the public will experience consistency in the Court Information Clerk position.

Two of the Commissioners priorities would be met by approving this request:

- 1) Assisting meeting basic needs.
- 2) Supporting public safety.
- 3) Assuring fair and efficient judicial processing.

## MEMO

**TO:** Law & Courts Committee  
**FROM:** Jodi LeBombard, Interim Director  
**CC:** John Neilsen, Chief Deputy Controller, Anne Burns, Deputy Director  
**REFERENCE:** 2016 Service Enhancement (Additional Personnel)  
**DATE:** August 19, 2015

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To improve services to County residents and care to the shelter animals, Ingham County Animal Control's (ICAC) first priority would be to increase the part-time veterinarian position to full time. This decision is based on increasing requests for veterinarian services and to increase the efficiencies of the department. Animal owners of the County would be best served with a full time veterinarian on staff.

Currently, the part time veterinarian works 21 hours per week and of those 21 hours 90% of the time is spent performing spay/neuter surgeries. The remainder of the time is spent performing examinations, diagnosing disease, recommending treatment, training staff on the proper protocol to administer medicine/drugs. The veterinarian is also responsible for maintaining medical inventory and the controlled substances drug logs. The veterinarian's current job description calls for the veterinarian to supervise the shelter operators. This is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish serving as a part-time employee.

Some benefits of having a full-time veterinarian include:

- Greatly reduce the need to utilize outsourced veterinarian services
- Complete more spay/neuter surgeries for current adoptable shelter animals
- Become more attractive to potential grants
- Supervise, evaluate and discipline shelter staff
- Write and create policy & procedures for current medical procedures
- Increased availability to diagnose, treat and provide care for the animals at the shelter
- Increased availability to document daily medical procedures, perform physical exams and keep accurate inventories
- More time to dedicate to potential neglect and cruelty cases
- Provide training to staff, volunteers and potential mentors and/or interns
- Dedicate more time to the research current diseases and the current treatment, the spread of infectious disease including detection and prevention
- Expand our current veterinarian services to the public including vaccinations, preventative care and spay/neuter programs

The biggest road block to any new position is funding. Increasing the veterinarian position from part-time to full-time would not only increase the weekly salary to 40 hours vs. 21 hours it would also increase the benefit package including health care, workers compensation, MERS, etc. The projected increase for the 2016 budget would be \$35,662.

Currently there are no grants available that I am aware of to offset or supplement personnel costs of a veterinarian. ICAC is constantly searching for outside funds to help offset as many costs as possible as well as soliciting for donations and sponsorships. Considering the Controllers recommended budget level and attempting to stay within the Strategic Planning objective the only funding available at this time would be the general fund or the “Z” list.

I respectfully ask the Board to approve this request and fund the increase using the “Z” list.