



County of Santa Cruz

010.

SHERIFF -CORONER

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 340, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

(831) 454-2985 FAX: (831) 454-2353

MARK TRACY
SHERIFF -CORONER

December 8, 1999

AGENDA: December 14, 1999

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

FEDERAL BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE OPEN SOLICITATION DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Board;

The Sheriffs Office is very committed to the philosophy and concept of Community Oriented Policing. The Sheriffs Community Service Centers are a key component in providing community policing services and activities. As your Board is aware, the South County Service Center is currently located in a site that is under consideration for annexation by the City of Watsonville. The Sheriffs Office has been working with the County Administrative Office and other County departments to identify potential sites in the unincorporated area that will enable our office to continue its very successful efforts in the unincorporated area of South County.

While beginning this process of identifying potential sites, my office has become aware of a potential funding source that may assist us in relocating the South County Community Service Center and to enhance our services there. The Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has announced the third year of its Open Solicitation Discretionary Grant Program. Applicants for this program are limited to units and agencies of state, local, and tribal governments. Through this grant process, the BJA is encouraging local agencies to identify emerging or chronic criminal justice issues within their communities and to provide strategies for addressing these issues. Applicants are asked to submit short concept papers describing their project. If selected for funding, detailed project descriptions and budgets are then developed.

My staff has prepared the attached concept paper under the Police Partnerships category requesting \$150,000 (grant limit) in funding to relocate the Service Center in order to continue to provide, and to enhance, community policing efforts in the South County unincorporated area. There are no matching funds required for this grant application. It

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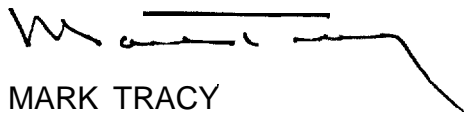
is anticipated that the Board will continue to fund the current operational costs of the Center.

We have identified one potential site for the relocation of the Center. The County currently owns property at the entrance to Pinto Lake County Park. This location along Green Valley Road is in an area for which significant calls for service are received. My office has also been involved in several community policing activities with residents of the Mesa Village area. The County Parks Department has expressed an interest in working with my office to evaluate this site for its potential as a location for the Sheriffs Community Service Center. We will also be working with General Services and other County agencies to identify and evaluate other potential sites for relocation and will keep your Board informed of our progress.

Unfortunately, there was little time to prepare for this grant opportunity. The concept paper is due in Washington D. C. by December 13, 1999. Because of the limited time to prepare the paper, we were unable to present this matter for your Board's review and approval prior to submitting the application to the BJA. If we receive favorable consideration for funding, we will return to your Board with detailed plans and budgets for direction and approval prior to any final action on the grant.

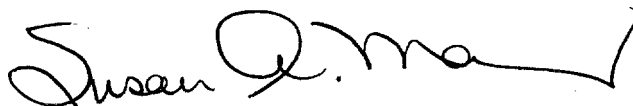
It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board approve the Sheriff's submission of a concept paper to the Bureau of Justice Administration in the amount of \$150,000 to relocate the Sheriffs South County Community Service Center.

Very truly yours,



MARK TRACY
Sheriff-Coroner

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

Attachment: BJA Open Solicitation Police Partnerships Concept Paper

cc: General Services Department
Parks Department

Cover Page: 1999 Open Solicitation Bureau of Justice Assistance

NOTE: All applicants must use this page as the cover of each submission.

Topic Area:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> 1. Alcohol and Crime | <input type="radio"/> 6. Local Criminal Justice Planning |
| <input type="radio"/> 2. Crime Prevention Among the Elderly | <input type="radio"/> 7. Improving Front-End Decisionmaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Improving Access to Services in Rural and Tribal Settings | <input checked="" type="radio"/> 8. Strategies To Strengthen the Adjudication Process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Mental Health | <input type="radio"/> 9. Innovations in Offender Supervision and Reentry |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Police Partnerships | |

Name of Agency Applying:

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Address of Agency Applying:

701 Ocean Street, Room 340

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Applicable Unit of Government:
(Please check only one.)

☐ State ☒ County/Parish/Borough CI Tribal
☐ City/Municipality/Village/Town/Township
☐ Other _____

Type of Agency:
(Please check only one.)

☐ Court ☐ Prosecutor ☐ Public Defender ☐ Corrections
☒ Law Enforcement ☐ Probation/Parole ☐ Public School
☐ City/County/State ☐ Tribal ☐ Other _____

Concept Paper Strategy Type:
(Primary)

☐ Adjudication ☐ Prosecution ☐ Indigent Defense
☐ Corrections ☒ Law Enforcement ☐ Pretrial Services
☐ Probation/Parole ☐ School-Based ☐ Other _____
If multidisciplinary, please specify strategy types.

Name and Title of Contact:

Chief Deputy Charles Weaver

Contact's Telephone Number:

(831) 454-2414 / (831) 454-2311

Contact's Fax Number:

(831) 454-2353

Contact's E-mail Address:

None

Is this your first federal grant proposal?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is this your first U.S. Department of Justice proposal?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Was this concept paper submitted under

BJA's 1997 or 1998 Open Solicitations?

☐ Yes ☒ No

(If yes, please circle which year or both years.)

Is your jurisdiction's population less than 25,000?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have you submitted this proposal to other federal agencies?

☐ Yes ☒ No

1. What is the problem?

Santa Cruz County is located on the Monterey Bay along the central coast of California. Its 439 square miles include beaches, bluffs, redwood forests, mountains and rich agricultural land. The County is surrounded by San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, San Benito County and Monterey County. The population of the county is 252,806. The Santa Cruz County Sheriffs Office is primarily responsible for 417 square miles of unincorporated land, supporting a population of approximately 137,741 which is approximately 55 per cent of the County's total population. The diverse geography of the County affects its economic development, population distribution and the delivery of government services. This proposal addresses a police-community partnership in the South County area.

The South County unincorporated area is approximately 107 square miles located in the Pajaro Valley and consists of agricultural land, high density residential neighborhoods, and rural areas. The area is among the poorest in the county, with approximately 20,000 residents with an estimated per capita income of less than \$12,000. More than 50 per cent of the South County population is **Latino** and has a large population of predominately Spanish speaking residents. The area has seen a substantial history of graffiti, gang violence, residential burglary, and general mistrust of law enforcement. Many of those problems have decreased as a result of the South County Sheriffs Community Center and its community policing efforts.

The Santa Cruz County Sheriffs Office currently operates four Sheriffs Community Service Centers one for each of its unique communities. The centers are located in shopping districts or office buildings and are staffed by deputies and community volunteers. The sites offer a number of services that were previously available only at the main Sheriffs **Office** in Santa Cruz in the northern area of the county. These services include the taking of criminal reports, problem oriented policing, provision of crime prevention materials, and many other law enforcement and community policing services.

The South County Sheriffs Center has been a tremendously successful tool in forging a bond with our South County community. Since opening the existing South County Sheriff's Center, community trust in the Sheriffs **Office** has dramatically increased. The South County Sheriff's Community Center spearheaded a successful effort to create partnerships with several neighborhoods, the agricultural community, and labor camps which have positively impacted the quality of life for South County residents. South County requests for Neighborhood Watch have increased 200 percent in the past year. We have developed, for the first time, an Agriwatch program designed for our agriculture industry which has seen tremendous loss in the past from chemical thefts. The South County Sheriffs Center has tremendous community support from residents, and the business community, as has been shown through their support of South County National

Night Out event, Citizen Emergency Response Team, Citizens Academy, and Sheriffs sponsored Neighborhood Renewal programs.

The South County Sheriff's Center is currently located in a retail shopping center which is in an area seeking to be annexed by the City of Watsonville. This will require the Sheriffs Office to seek another location in the unincorporated South County area that will provide practical access to residential communities. Since the need remains for community policing efforts in the South County area, the receipt of grant funds for this relocation is critical. There exists a strong need for a South County Sheriffs Center which would continue to improve law enforcement by creating new, and building upon existing, partnerships to provide increased access to the community.

2. **What are you proposing to do and how do you intend to do it?**

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office is a true Community Oriented Police Agency which is constantly seeking efficient and innovative ways to improve its services to the communities it serves. With the moneys received from the Police Partnership Grant, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office will be able to relocate the Sheriffs Community Center and maintain and operate it under existing County budgets.

One potential site for the Community Service Center has been identified. This site is located at the Pinto Lake County Park, one of the most popular recreational areas in the South County. The park is 183 acres of open space with fishing, four soccer fields, amphitheater and picnic facilities. It is utilized almost exclusively by South County residents and is a favorite location for soccer leagues, quinceneras, birthdays, and other family events. The park is centrally located in the South County area, has a positive image as a relaxation area for residents, has public transportation access, and is located on a well-maintained county thoroughfare. The building site location is maintained and serviced by Santa Cruz County and has full utility access.

The site is located directly across from the Mesa Village residential area which has seen a dramatic rise in gang related activity in recent years. The Sheriffs Office has recently been working directly with residents of this area to provide community policing services including community meetings to discuss neighborhood problems. The Sheriffs Office recently helped to coordinate a neighborhood wide cleanup campaign in this area which was very successful. The percentage of calls for service in this area of South County is significant and justifies locating the Service Center in this location. Additionally, the park is located along Green Valley Road, a heavily traveled road that provides deputies access to other areas of South County.

If funded, we propose to continue and to enhance the South County Sheriffs

Community Service Center. Currently, a small residential rental property of approximately 1100 square feet is sited at the front entrance to the park. If the park site proves to be feasible, grant funds would be used for one time costs to remodel, seismically retrofit, provide disability accessibility, and expand the square footage to accommodate the provision of services. If it proves impractical and financially unfeasible to upgrade the current structure due to its age and physical condition, then grant funds would be used to purchase a manufactured modular structure. Grant funds would also be used to provide parking, lighting, signing and other safety/security measures. Alternative sites will also be evaluated to determine the best potential location to provide community policing services and activities.

Wherever sited, the Center will provide office space for Sheriffs Office deputies and volunteers. Additionally, space **will** be available for the use by County Parks staff, the South County Medium/Minimum Security Chaplain, District Attorney staff, Probation, school district staff and community based organizations. A conference/meeting room will also be provided for staff and community meetings. The center will be a place where residents can come to find a deputy to talk to **one-on-one**, to meet with staff from other County departments, to find comfort from a Chaplain, and to seek long-term solutions for law enforcement issues such as gangs and substance abuse.

This approach to the Sheriffs Community Center will substantially enhance the efforts of the Sheriffs Office to be more accessible to the community. Currently, it is located in a small office in a retail shopping center and is staffed by a Community Center Sergeant, Sheriff's volunteers, and the South County Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Team . The center is open to the public Monday through Friday and provides a location for spearheading community issues such as Neighborhood Watch, POP projects, and quality of life issues such as landscaping for safety and community clean up days. The new Sheriff's Community Center will incorporate the services of the old center into a location where the community enjoys recreational and family-oriented activities. The Center will provide a centralized location for community based organizations, other County agencies and volunteers to participate with the Sheriff in community oriented policing activities. All law enforcement personnel will have twenty-four hour access to the site and will be visible and available to community members while at the center. In addition to his twenty-four hour emergency call out availability, the Chaplain will have published hours of availability at the center.

Once the grant is funded and site evaluation completed, design plans will be developed. Input will be sought from various public agencies, private non-profit organizations and community members as appropriate. Once site plans are approved, construction will begin. It is estimated that this process will take from 6 to 12 months.

3. What other agencies/resources will work with you?

As we plan for a new Sheriffs Service Center facility, we are committed to providing direct service-level coordination and collaboration with a variety of public and private agencies. We have a strong departmental record of participation and involvement in both public and private partnerships.

One of our partners will be Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Inc. (PVPSA). This is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization with an excellent record of providing student assistance programs, mentoring programs, education and youth leadership development, all in a culturally competent environment. PVPSA and the Sheriffs Office have a history of successful collaborations.

Last year, as part of our commitment to National Night Out, we started a grassroots neighborhood mobilization and community-wide awareness campaign across the street from the proposed Sheriffs Service Center. The event was so well-attended that community has continued to work collaboratively throughout the year with Sheriff deputies, business organizations, and governmental agencies on a variety of neighborhood renewal and revitalization projects. Our goal is to provide meeting space for community members, deputies, and interested parties to work on long-term solutions to crime, **violence**, fear of crime and neighborhood decay in one of the poorest areas of Santa Cruz County.

We recently started an agricultural watch program which is supported by the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau. We have successfully partnered with the County Planning Department, including Code Enforcement, by opening neighborhood offices with shared storage, bathroom, conference and emergency operations facilities in the San Lorenzo Valley area of the county.

We also have a proven commitment to providing full access in our other store-front business offices to the California Highway Patrol, Child protective Services, California State Parole officers, County probation, and the local elected representative of the Board of Supervisors. We have also provided use of our conference room to any community group or organization. This same successful arrangement is part of our planned strategy for the proposed South County Service Center.

We have participated in many collaborative efforts and have developed meaningful partnerships that have aided us, and others, in the creation and delivery of quality community policing, educational, recreational, mentoring and diversion services to the people of Santa Cruz County. Our goal, in establishing this neighborhood office, is to provide space that is convenient and accessible to everyone, and enable us to continue to work together to solve crime and other community problems.

4. How will you know if your concept works?

Throughout the proposed strategy for building a stronger partnership between the Santa Cruz County Sheriffs Office and the South County community, several steps will be implemented to monitor and measure progress and effectiveness. Upon receipt of grant funds, a Sheriffs Office financial specialist will track development and expenditures, ensuring funds will be appropriately distributed and expended in a timely manner.

The project manager for the South County Sheriff's Community Center holds the responsibility for monitoring the progression of the Center's planning phase, designing phase, bid acceptance, construction phase; implementation of all functions, and remaining in compliance with all Bureau of Justice Assistance grant requirements. The project manager will utilize the pre-existing County's Department of Information Services to further measure the Community Center's uses and inter-agency communications. By partnering with Information Services, the Sheriffs Office Crime Analyst will be able to access all inputs and cross reference with Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Agriculture Commissioners Office, Parks Department, and State Parole. The project manager will then be able to supervise community surveys, maintain media relations, and monitor crime trends.

As a means of assisting in the monitoring of service provision in the South County Community Center, an advisory committee will be established. This committee, consisting of the Sheriff and other Sheriffs staff, a representative of the Board of Supervisors, other County personnel and members from the community, will review the Center's operations thereby promoting the effective delivery of programs and services in order to achieve expected results.

Additionally, a series of objective measurements will be developed to evaluate the services provided and to compare with current services. These measurements may include such items as the number of phone calls to the center, the number of walk-ins, the number of appointments, the number of community meetings held, the total residents served, and the number of special events held.

5. What are the costs and cost benefits of implementing the strategy?

We are requesting \$150,000 in grant funds to establish a permanent site for the Sheriffs South County Community Service Center. The grant funds are designated to be used solely for site preparation, remodeling or purchase of a modular structure, paving to accommodate a parking area, outside lighting, signing, and necessary security measures.

We are not seeking funds for the operational expenses of the proposed South

County Community Center. If the County owned site is selected for the Center, there will be no rental expense. This will result in cost savings to the County of approximately \$8,000 annually. Personnel costs and other annual operating costs of the South County Service Center are currently approximately \$155,000. The County will continue to support these costs.

The community based policing philosophy makes better use of existing law enforcement resources. By solving policing problems with long-term solutions, the Sheriffs Office will not have to continually respond to the same problems. We will be better able to use the police resources, as well as the other resources at the center, to have a pro-active approach to policing. The costs to the community of not providing the Center include greatly reduced access to law enforcement services, loss of trust by the community, and a reduction in the Sheriff's ability to provide full community and problem oriented policing.

The new South County Sheriffs Community Center is the foundation for the future of South County Community Policing. The new center will be a true "Community Center" which is accessible to all South County residents. Other County representatives will be made available to answer questions ranging from barking dogs and crowing roosters to protecting yourself from fraudulent phone solicitations. Residents will be able to reserve space in the county park for family events. Most important, children, teens and their parents will have a place to come and find guidance, drug intervention, safety, and alternatives to gangs, ultimately enhancing law enforcement efforts and reducing crime.