



The BOSONE/PV/EDC  
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11/17/2008 03:35 PM

To Suzanne Allen de Sanchez/PV/EDC@TCP, Cynthia C  
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cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: What are all of you thinking or probably not thinking.  
Regarding laying off of SIU investigators?



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11/17/2008 02:57 PM

To <bosfour@co.el-dorado.ca.us>,  
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cc <karentierney@mindspring.com>, "cassandra bell"  
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Subject What are all of you thinking or probably not thinking.  
Regarding laying off of SIU investigators?

To the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

I am concerned citizen and live in district three.

I am especially disturbed about your recent decision to lay off SIU investigators and pretty much gut the department. Your decision shows just how naïve you must all be regarding Welfare Fraud, especially in the current economic situation that we are in at this very moment. It appears that you the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors are attempting to re-direct monies specifically set aside and funded by the state of California directly El Dorado.

The law mandates that we have an SIU unit, and your decision to gut the unit is wrong & against the law. I urge your to reconsider your decision by considering the following:

Fraud is an identifiable taxpayer concern: All types of fraud are abhorrent to taxpayers; however, the fraud that occurs in the receipt of public benefits is of particular interest to most citizens. The current economic downturn will likely cause an increase in aid applications and a corresponding increase in the number of aid recipients who commit fraud. If the County eliminates or reduces SIU, the public's perception will be that the County does not highly value the detection, prevention, and punishment of welfare fraud.

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SIU is NOT general fund: Historically, SIU has been funded through state and federal allocations, as set forth in the yearly Program Summaries submitted to the Board by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Unlike many other DHS programs, the net general fund, County cost for SIU is ZERO.

SIU is cost-effective law enforcement: Under Penal Code Section 830.35, as amended in 2001, the SIU investigators are peace officers. The investigators have powers of arrest, carry firearms, prepare and execute search warrants, participate in POST-certified officer training, and conduct full law enforcement investigations into welfare fraud. Despite being peace officers, the SIU investigators' benefits mirror those of a non-sworn County employee (e.g., no "3% at 50," no take home car, and lower salaries than other law enforcement).

The County will lose direct revenue if SIU is eliminated: The State allocates funds to DHS in part based upon the number of welfare fraud cases processed. These monies, paid into the Fraud Incentive Program, will decrease as SIU is either eliminated or reduced. Even if SIU's functions are assumed by one District Attorney Investigator, that investigator would have been unable to process, for example, the approximately 1,600 investigations completed in 2007.

SIU provides direct and indirect benefits to taxpayers: Not only does SIU generate income to DHS and save taxpayer money, as fully set forth in the accompanying data, SIU provides a myriad of services to the County that would otherwise be unperformed or underperformed. For example, SIU handled approximately 100 emergency CLETS requests (California Law Enforcement Technology Systems), enabling Child Protective Services to safely place at-risk children into alternative homes. SIU also provides protection to the entire Briw Road staff of almost 350 workers. In 2007 alone, approximately 79 hours of SIU time was spent as first responders to workplace violence incidents. At a moment's notice, SIU investigators can accompany CPS social workers into dangerous situations, a function unlikely able to be fulfilled by already overtaxed local police agencies.

SIU has a new plan to combat welfare fraud: At an October 2008 conference, SIU learned of a state trend towards Administrative Disqualification Hearings (ADH) that is lower cost than the full criminal

court process, much quicker than criminal filings to resolve, and results in greater recovery of monies for the County. The neighboring County of Sacramento already uses this alternative process to great cost-saving effect.

I and many like me urge you to reconsider your decision, as the consequences have far reaching ramifications.

Respectfully  
Peggy V. & William H. Taylor  
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