

**LEGISLATIVE ALERT, MARCH 7, 2008**

**URGENT BUDGET ALERT FOR ALL CHIEFS!**

The Conference has just ended and here is the first budget alert of the year. Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number Four is meeting on Wednesday, March 12 at 1:30 in Sacramento to consider the Legislative Analyst's so-called "alternative budget proposal". Put simply, the LAO proposal is an unmitigated disaster for local law enforcement in general and for city police in particular. Here's what the LAO proposal will do to you:

1. It will abolish the COPS program in its entirety. This means that you will receive NO COPS MONEY in 2008-2009 or ever again. These funds have been critically important to virtually every city police agency in California, and they will be zeroed out.
2. It will take the Proposition 172 ½ cent sales tax public safety money that you now receive and give it to County Probation for them to conduct parole services. Under the LAO proposal, you will never again receive Proposition 172 funding.
3. It will restore booking fees. So, not only will you be receiving fewer resources, the LAO proposal will assure that your remaining resources are bled out by being required to pay booking fees to counties.

It is essential that this proposal be stopped in its tracks. We have a chance to do so, but only if the members of the committee hear the full-throated objections of police chiefs. Please contact EACH MEMBER of Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number Four and urge them to reject this anti-local law enforcement proposal. Remind them that police chiefs protect 78% of Californians and that the LAO proposal is a dagger in the heart of ALL public safety. You might also point out that, unlike parole officers, many probation officers are unarmed, which will only increase the burden on police departments to provide backup for Probation as they carry out parole functions. Police are willing to take on those burdens, but can't do it if their resources are slashed at the same time.

Here are the members of Assembly Budget Subcommittee Number Four:

Juan Arambula (Chair)	Phone: 916-319-2031	FAX: 916-319-2131
Paul Cook	Phone 916-319-2065	FAX: 916-319-2165
Chuck DeVore	Phone 916-319-2070	FAX: 916-319-2170
Mary Hayashi	Phone 916-319-2018	FAX: 916-319-2118
Gene Mullin	Phone 916-319-2019	FAX: 916-319-2119
Sandre Swanson	Phone 916-319-2016	FAX 916-319-2116

Assembly Members Cook and DeVore are Republicans, the other members are Democrats. Please make these calls ASAP. If you don't reach the Assembly Member or one of their top aides, CALL AGAIN. Redundancy is the HIGHEST form of advocacy! If you have any questions, please call me at 916-447-3820 or on my cellular phone at 916-261-7188.

Thank you for getting on this!

John Lovell