



## **CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** 6/6/2023

**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

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### **SUBJECT:**

AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ORANGE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement with the County of Orange for Law Enforcement Services for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The City of Lake Forest contracts with the Orange County Sheriff's Department ("OCSD") for law enforcement services. The proposed cost for the attached Fiscal Year 2023-24 Law Enforcement Agreement ("OCSD Agreement") is \$19,629,237, which is \$77,894 or 0.40% less than the current fiscal year (Attachment 1). This year-over-year decrease is primarily due to the one-time purchase of body worn cameras during the Fiscal Year 2022-23 contract year and a percentage decrease in the Regional Shared Staff costs. OCSD management is currently in labor negotiations with bargaining units that represent sheriff's deputies and other personnel. Once negotiations are finalized (likely during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-24), staff plan to return the City Council with an updated agreement that includes more compensation to accommodate the likely wage increases provided to sheriff's deputies and other personnel. The proposed OCSD Agreement includes a staffing plan that describes personnel and other resource allocations (Attachment 2).

Through proactive policing and partnership with the community, Lake Forest consistently has one of the lowest crime rates within Orange County. A historical record of "Part 1" crimes is provided as Attachment 3, which documents significant local crimes (Attachment 3).

Staff recommends the City Council approve the new one-year OCSD Agreement. The proposed 2023-2025 Operating Budget includes sufficient funding to cover the costs of the recommended action.

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## **BACKGROUND:**

When the City incorporated in 1991, the “contract city” service model was implemented for a variety of public services, including law enforcement. Consequently, the City has a long-standing contractual relationship with OCSD, which also provides law enforcement services to 12 other Orange County cities. The contract service model has been an effective and efficient model for service delivery and crime mitigation. The City’s annual contract with OCSD includes salaries, benefits, and other associated overhead costs for the number of direct and shared positions required to support public safety and police operations within the City’s boundaries. Cities that contract with OCSD capitalize on the economies of scale associated with the sharing of certain facilities, vehicles, training, personnel, specialized policing units (i.e., Directed Enforcement Team, Special Enforcement Team, Behavioral Health Bureau, Special Weapons and Tactics, and the Gang Enforcement Team) and other costs. Each year, as part of the City’s budget compilation process, staff reviews the proposed costs associated with these services and presents an annual contract with OCSD to the City Council for consideration.

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## **DISCUSSION:**

### Year in Review

The OCSD continues its partnership with the community to reduce and prevent crime in Lake Forest through various initiatives. Highlights from calendar year 2022 include:

- ◆ 3,264 service hours donated by the Sheriff’s Team of Active Retired Seniors (“STARS”).
- ◆ Homeless Liaison Officer (“HLO”) placed one homeless family into housing in partnership with other organizations as well as providing resources related to substance abuse, disability, mental health, medical issues, and veteran services.
- ◆ Continued to refine emergency response services in partnership with the Orange County Fire Authority.
- ◆ Helped the City implement an additional 27 Automated License Plate Reader (“ALPR”) camera locations throughout the city.
- ◆ Reestablished the Business Watch Program.
- ◆ Met with several Homeowner Associations to discuss issues related to their neighborhood.
- ◆ Maintained an average call for service response time of less than five minutes.

## Traffic Enforcement Statistics

The recommended California State Office of Traffic Safety (“OTS”) Traffic Enforcement Index is between 25%-35%. This index is determined by dividing the number of hazardous violations by the number of fatal and injury collisions. In 2022, the City’s Traffic Enforcement Index was below that range at 18%. There was an increase in the number of fatal traffic accidents from four to six from the prior year and the number of injury traffic accidents decreased by 8%. A three-year comparison of traffic enforcement statistics is provided in Table 1.

*Table 1: Traffic Enforcement Statistics*

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Hazardous Moving Citation	1,603	1,018	2,591
Non-Hazardous Citations	1,254	726	453
Fatal Traffic Accidents	1	4	6
Injury Traffic Accidents	14	150	138

## Calls for Service

Calls for Service include calls that were generated from dispatch and by the patrol deputies’ self-initiated observations. In 2022, there was a 3% increase in the total number of Calls for Services and a decrease in average response time of 3.82%. Of these calls for services, those that are potential life-threatening incidents are identified as “Priority 1” calls. Table 2 provides a three-year comparison of response times for all Calls for Service.

*Table 2: Calls for Service and Response Times*

<b>Metric</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total Calls for Service	27,087	26,519	27,329
Priority One Calls	375	427	423
Response Times for Priority One Calls	4:17 min	4:45 min	4:28 min

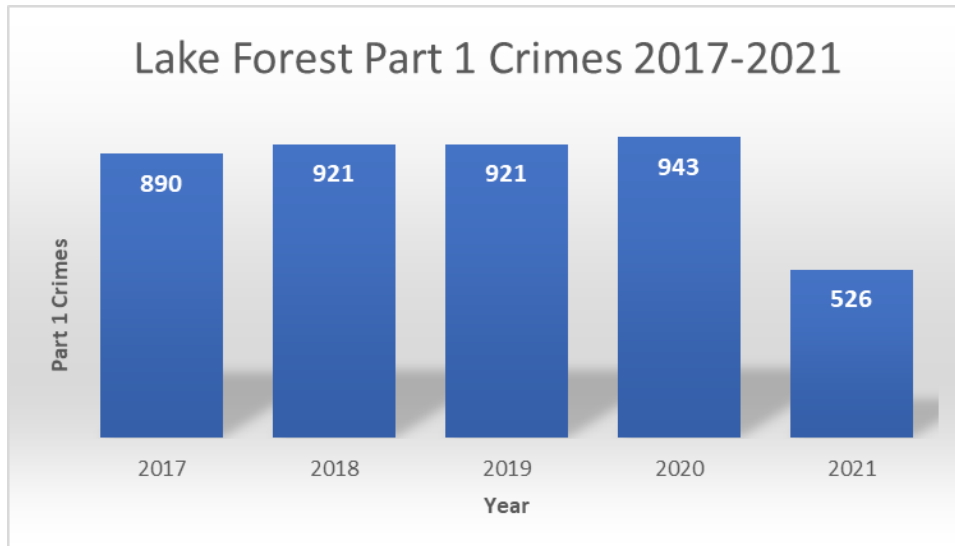
## Reports of Crime and Crime Rates

The Uniform Crime Reporting (“UCR”) database, which includes the official record of Part 1 Crimes, is reported on a calendar year basis by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”). In terms of the number of reported crimes and the crime rate, numerous factors may affect these figures, in either a positive or negative direction. Furthermore, the crime statistics over a single year do not provide a sufficient basis to establish a crime trend. Consequently, when discussing crime, a more longitudinal approach provides a greater level of

context and the ability to identify potential trends. Nonetheless, OCSD regularly provides Part 1 crime statistics to the City and the information is posted on the City's website. Part 1 Crimes are defined as violent or serious crimes, such as homicide, rape, burglary, and auto theft. Staff have attached the Part 1 Crime Statistics provided by OCSD. The statistics are provided for the past five years (Attachment 1).

Table 3 shows the total Part 1 Crimes, as provided by OCSD, from 2017-2021. Traditionally, Part 1 crime data is documented under the Uniform Crime Reporting ("UCR") Program administered by the U.S. Department of Justice. During the 2021 calendar year, the National Incident-Based Reporting System ("NIBRS") was introduced to replace UCR. Because of this change, OCSD manually reconciled UCR Part 1 crime data into the NIBRS system for 2021. Unfortunately, this data has not yet been certified by the Department of Justice. As a result, the official Part 1 crime record is limited to data collected through May 2021. Table 3 shows UCR Part 1 crime data for Lake Forest since 2017 but reflects only January through May for 2021.

*Table 3: Annual Lake Forest Part 1 Crimes 2017-2021*



#### Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Agreement

On an annual basis, OCSD prepares an estimate of potential costs that initiates the development of annual contracts with various cities. This process is purposefully iterative in that the OCSD works closely with contract cities and presents subsequent estimates of potential costs based on its operations, desired service levels, and other general feedback from the community. As part of the process, contract city representatives and OCSD discuss ongoing needs relative to public safety and cost-sharing/saving measures that provide sufficient funding for the desired level of services.

This year, the estimate provided by OCSD is \$19,629,237, which is -0.40% or \$77,894 less than the previous year. The decrease is primarily due to the one-time purchase of body worn cameras during Fiscal Year 2022-23 and an overall percentage decrease in the Regional/Shared Staff costs. Included in the contract proposal is the purchase of one patrol vehicle, a mobile data computer, and in-car video camera. Staffing levels remain the same. OCSD management is currently in labor negotiations with various employee bargaining units. Bargaining activities are projected to conclude during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-24. This will almost certainly impact the total contract cost, which will require staff to return to the City Council during or around the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-24 to consider adding compensation to the OCSD Agreement to cover the costs of negotiated wage increases and benefit costs of OCSD personnel.

#### Orange County Sheriff's Department Staffing

OCSD proposes 54 non-shared positions for Lake Forest within categories of administration, patrol investigations, traffic enforcement, and community policing, including special events and crime prevention (Attachment 2). This is the same level of service provided for Fiscal Year 2022-23. Table 4 provides the proposed breakdown of positions for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

*Table 4: Category & Position Title FY 2023-24*

<b>Category &amp; Position Title</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
<b>Administration</b>	
Captain, Chief of Police	1
Sergeant	1
Office Specialist	1
<b>Patrol</b>	
Sergeant	4
Deputy Sheriff	32
<b>Investigations</b>	
Investigator	3
Investigative Assistant	1
<b>Traffic</b>	
Motorcycle Deputies	2
Commercial Enforcement	1
Community Services Officer/Parking Enforcement Officer	5
<b>Community Policing</b>	
Deputy Sheriff	2
Crime Prevention Specialist	1
<b>TOTAL STAFF</b>	<b>54</b>

The proposed OSCD Agreement includes shared positions in various categories. Consistent with past practices, the proposed shared positions and percentage contributions were derived from a detailed analysis completed by OCSD. The analysis uses actual expenditures in the current year to allocate anticipated shared personnel costs in the upcoming year among the various contract cities in south Orange County. The sharing of resources creates efficiency and controls costs for all participating cities and is one of the many benefits of the contract method of service delivery. The percentage contribution decreased for all Traffic and Detective positions but increased for Auto Theft positions and the Courts Investigative Assistant. Table 5 provides the Regional/Shared Staff Personnel and Percentage Contributions.

*Table 5: Regional/Shared Staff Personnel and Percentage Contributions*

<b>Position</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percentage Contributions</b>
Traffic Sergeant	0.6	14.19%
Traffic Deputy Sheriff	4	14.19%
Traffic Investigative Assistant	2	14.19%
Traffic Office Specialist	1	14.19%
Auto Theft Sergeant	0.3	13.34%
Auto Theft Investigator	2	13.34%
Auto Theft Investigative Assistant	1	13.34%
Auto Theft Office Specialist	1	13.34%
DET Sergeant	1	15.51%
DET Investigator	1	15.51%
Courts Investigative Assistant	2	48.85%
Motorcycle Sergeant MDC	1	7.55%
<b>TOTAL SHARED COSTS</b>	<b>16.90</b>	<b>-</b>

### Amendment Approval

The OCSD Agreement for Fiscal Year 2023-24 stipulates that the City Manager has the authority to administratively approve amendments that would not exceed one percent of the total contract cost. Based on the total cost of \$19,629,237, this would allow the City Manager to approve amendments up to \$196,292.37. Staff recommends the City Council approve the proposed OCSD Agreement.

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### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total cost of the proposed OCSD Agreement for Fiscal Year 2023-24 is \$19,629,237, which is a decrease of \$77,894 or -0.40% from the Fiscal Year 2022-23 contract. Due to ongoing labor negotiations between OCSD management and employee bargaining units, staff will likely return to the City

Council during or around the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-24 to consider adding compensation to the OCSD Agreement to cover increased wage and benefit costs of OCSD personnel. The proposed 2023-2025 Operating Budget includes sufficient funding to cover the costs of the recommended action.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Agreement for Law Enforcement Services with Orange County Sheriff's Department for Fiscal Year 2023-24
2. Orange County Sheriff's Department Fiscal Year 2023-24 Staffing Plan
3. Lake Forest Police Services 2022 Annual Report

Initiated By: Sharlyn De la Paz, Senior Management Analyst  
Submitted By: Sean McGovern, Assistant to the City Manager  
Approved By: Debra Rose, City Manager