

# NEWS

From the Office of

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### **Supervisors Approve New Criminal Investigators**

SAN BERNARDINO – At a time when government and private sector employers are downsizing, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today authorized the County Sheriff’s Department to hire two new Criminalists to provide DNA analysis in support of criminal investigations.

“Even though we have a hiring freeze due to difficult economic times, crime is still on the rise and it’s important that we support programs that have a positive impact on public safety,” said Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. “In order to improve public safety, we must provide our law enforcement officials with the best tools, technology and resources available. The addition of these two positions to the Sheriff’s DNA unit will ensure that the department is able to keep pace with the ever-increasing number of criminal cases.”

The additional specialists are necessary to keep pace with an increasing volume of DNA analysis casework and to allow the Sheriff’s DNA unit to analyze more cases per year. The specialized crime investigator positions will be funded by revenues from court fines and by per capita assessments paid by other law enforcement agencies.

Criminalists perform forensic laboratory examinations of physical evidence to establish facts in criminal cases. They participate in crime scene investigations, gather, preserve and examine evidence, and testify in court as expert witnesses. The training period for a new DNA Criminalist is one to two years once hired. Incumbents in the positions generally hold at least a bachelor’s degree in natural science as well as specialized training in genetics, biochemistry and molecular biology.