

NEWS

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Board votes to continue Sheriff patrols in San Bernardino

SAN BERNARDINO – The ongoing fight against crime in the City of San Bernardino received a boost on Tuesday, September 12, from the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously ratified action taken on Friday by Board Chairman Bill Postmus to direct \$285,723 in contingency funding toward continuing the Sheriff's participation in a saturation patrol strategy in key areas of the City of San Bernardino and adjacent unincorporated areas through December 31, 2006.

"Keeping the county's citizens safe from crime is my highest priority, and nowhere in San Bernardino County is the need greater than in the City of San Bernardino," Chairman Postmus said. "Today's (Tuesday's) vote by the Board of Supervisors shows that the county is serious about the war against crime."

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday also ratified a Joint Declaration signed Friday by Chairman Postmus, Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, and San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris committing the county and the city to the joint crime-fighting effort.

"A seamless boundary approach in law enforcement is an effective multi-pronged tool to smash crime," Supervisor Gonzales said.

Mayor Morris appeared before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday to thank the supervisors for their support and to outline the city's effort to pass a quarter-cent sales tax increase within the city to support law enforcement.

"You've stepped forward as responsible partners with the city to assist us," Mayor Morris told the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday. "We are taking every resource available to us to attack this issue of gang-induced violence in our city, and your help has been a critical bridge to that end."

The Board of Supervisors' commitment to assisting the city in its current anti-crime efforts dates back to November 22, 2005, when the board expressed concern regarding the increase in criminal gang activity, including several murders, in the city, and requested that the Sheriff to return to the board with a plan to assist the San Bernardino Police Department in addressing the issue.

Effective December 2, 2005, the Sheriff assigned two sergeants and 10 deputies to participate in an interagency task force targeting crime in the City of San Bernardino and surrounding unincorporated areas. The offensive was in the form of a month-long saturation patrol, working in conjunction with the San Bernardino Police Department and the California Highway Patrol.

On December 6, 2005, the Board of Supervisors authorized the use of \$105,472 in Contingency funding for this purpose for the month of December 2005. The saturation patrol later resumed at the direction of the Sheriff at a level of one sergeant and six deputies for the nine weeks leading up to September 2, 2006, at an additional cost of \$151,264.80.

The additional patrol for the past nine weeks has been effective, resulting in more than 1,700 criminal arrests. The \$285,723 in funding will cover the Sheriff's associated overtime costs to continue the program through the end of 2006.