



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Justice Building
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May 6, 2019

The Honorable Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Carla Piluso, Co-Chair
Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Memo: **Response to request for statement regarding District Attorney Resource Coordinator Position**

Dear Co-Chairpersons and Members of the Subcommittee:

On April 15th, our District Attorney Resource Coordinator, Michelle Long, forwarded to members of the Senate a letter from the Oregon District Attorneys' Association urging the Senators to vote no on Senate Bill 1008. She had been asked by the Executive Director of the Association to forward the letter to the Senators. As I stated in my subsequent communication to those Senators, the Department of Justice did not authorize sending out that communication, and in fact the Attorney General has testified in favor of Senate Bill 1008.

The Department of Justice has had a District Attorney Resource Coordinator position for 27 years. It was provided by the legislature in 1991. Through the years it has coordinated trainings that the Department provides for district attorneys, such as the "Baby DA" School and the Advanced Prosecutors' Institute. It was never intended to engage in any political activities on behalf of the district attorneys or the Department of Justice. To be clear, it will be stated in

The Honorable Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Carla Piluso, Co-Chair
May 6, 2019
Page two

the position description going forward that this position does not include any administration or coordination of legislative policy or other political activity on behalf of the District Attorneys or the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,



FREDERICK M. BOSS
Deputy Attorney General

DM# 9566833



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

May 2, 2019

The Honorable James Manning
900 Court Street, NE, S-205
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Budget Testimony

Dear Senator Manning:

I am writing regarding my testimony in support of the Department of Justice's budget bill (SB 5515) on April 24th. You had asked whether funding additional Oregon State Police (OSP) Troopers and detectives, as well as the OSP crime lab, would help to fulfill the duties of the criminal analyst positions for which we have requested funding. Because I did not fully answer your question during my testimony, I wanted to follow up with you in writing.

To answer your question, because a criminal analyst performs a unique role in law enforcement, funding for different positions would not provide the same statewide support to law enforcement and prosecutors. Criminal analysts have specialized training and expertise in researching and developing investigative leads; analyzing complex and voluminous evidence; and in creating and presenting demonstrative exhibits, such as link charts and timelines. Employing criminal analysts is a cost-effective approach to increasing the efficacy and efficiency of criminal investigations, because their work enhances the efforts of both police and prosecutors at lower personnel costs.

For instance, a Research Analyst 1 can assist in criminal investigations by conducting research to identify investigative leads, including locating information relating to a suspect, such as the suspect's property or financial records. Because analysts are specifically trained in research techniques and methodology, they can perform those research-related tasks much more efficiently than the police officers they support. Moreover, performing those services on behalf of police officers allows the police officers to devote their efforts toward fulfilling tasks more specifically related to their job duties, such as interviewing witnesses and executing search warrants. Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the state rely on support from our analysts to provide investigative research. The Oregon State Police, for example, rely on our research analysts to conduct research in support of its Domestic Highway Enforcement Program. Currently, all of our Research Analysts 1 positions are federally funded through grants.

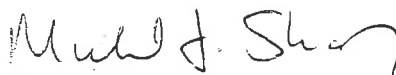
The Honorable James Manning
May 2, 2019
Page 2

Additionally, a Research Analyst 3 supports criminal investigations and prosecutions in complex cases by consulting with detectives and prosecutors, identifying trends and other relevant connections from the evidence, and by organizing and presenting the evidence in a way that gives it meaning beyond each piece of evidence itself. For example, an analyst may create a chart depicting a suspect's path of travel by combining information from gas station receipts, cell-site data, and text messages. A Research Analyst 3 serves a particularly critical role in significant cases, such as homicides, where a successful prosecution relies on developing corroborating evidence, or in investigations in which the target is to disrupt and dismantle a criminal organization, such as a human trafficking ring. Simply put, in many instances, a successful case outcome is dependent on the availability of a criminal analyst to assist. Although some larger agencies in the state, such as OSP, employ analysts to assist them in their investigations, we currently employ a single analyst to support all agencies statewide.

Finally, to further answer your question, the criminal analysts at the Criminal Justice Division serve a very different role than the criminalists and scientists at the OSP crime lab who analyze forensic evidence, such as DNA and fingerprints. Rather than test physical evidence as would an OSP scientist, a criminal analyst's job is to evaluate records and documents for evidentiary value. Importantly, both serve pivotal roles in supporting law enforcement and prosecutors statewide, such that asking police to effectively investigate white collar crime or a drug trafficking organization without the support of a criminal analyst is akin to asking a detective to investigate a burglary or a homicide without the benefit of DNA or fingerprint evidence. The unfortunate truth is that without effective analytical support, sophisticated criminals and criminal organizations will thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the critical need for criminal analysts. Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Slauson
Chief Counsel
Criminal Justice Division
Oregon Department of Justice

✓ cc: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

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