



STATE OF ARIZONA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

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August 12, 2008

Mr. Craig Sullivan
Executive Director
County Supervisors Association
1905 W. Washington, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

A number of municipal and county law enforcement agencies have recently made inquiries regarding the fees for DPS crime lab services contained in the FY 2009 state budget. I am pleased to have this opportunity to respond.

State appropriations for the DPS Crime Lab have increased dramatically in recent years, by 54% from 2002 to 2008. The increase is entirely due to increased demand from municipal and county law enforcement agencies. In 2002, 36.8% of all crime lab work was performed for municipalities, 20.6% for counties, and 40.8% for state, federal and tribal agencies. Between 2002 and 2008, the number of submissions to the DPS lab from municipalities and counties has increased by 100% (doubled), while the number of submissions from state agencies has increased by only 6%.

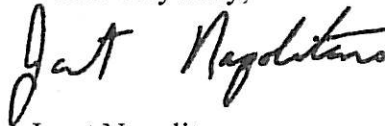
As part of the adjustments for FY 2009 to alleviate the \$1.9 billion state budget deficit, every effort was made to protect law enforcement and public safety, including the operation of the DPS crime lab. As part of the give and take of negotiations, an assessment fee for users of the crime lab was instituted.

Since the enactment of the budget, DPS Director Vanderpool has proposed to offset the majority of the fee impact on municipal and county law enforcement agencies by using \$5.2 million of Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) money that DPS does not expect to expend during FY 2009. This is an appropriate use of GIITEM funds because they would only be used to analyze evidence related to immigration, gang, and border crimes. This proposal would reduce the local share to only \$2.6 million.

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Arizona has one of the most state-of-the-art crime labs in the country and has received national awards recognizing it. This asset has been critical in solving crimes in Arizona. We cherish our partnership with local law enforcement through the use of our lab and will work to further enhance this relationship.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Napolitano". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Janet Napolitano
Governor