



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 24, 2021

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**Lake County Commissioners, Clerk of Courts, and Perry Township Trustees Announce  
Additional Road Patrol in Perry Township**

As crime has increased across the United States the Lake County Commissioners recognized the growing need for a stronger law enforcement presence across the townships. Recognizing the financial constraints of township government to address the immediate need for increased policing with limited revenue the Lake County Commissioners created a local COPS grant.

With the assistance of Clerk of Courts Faith Andrews they created a program to help immediately fund increased Sheriff's Deputies in the townships by offering to provide a second deputy for every deputy added to current policing contracts. The program would continue to fund the additional deputy(s) for a period of four (4) years to enable enough time for the township to find alternative funding sources to assume the financial responsibility of the added deputies after four years.

Today the Perry Township Trustees announced that they would be the first township to take advantage of this localized grant program. The Perry Township Trustees explained that they would be hiring two (2) new deputies in a contract with the Lake County Sheriff's Office to patrol Perry Township. Additionally, they would accept the second two (2) deputy sheriffs paid for by the Commissioners to add to local patrol in Perry Township. Their intent would be to then explore alternative funding sources to increase localized patrol throughout their area.

"Protecting our citizens is governments' number one priority and I cannot be more proud of the financial support of Clerk Andrews and the work of my fellow Commissioners John Plecnik and Ron Young to provide professional, high quality police service in Perry Township," said Commission President John R. Hamercheck. Clerk of Courts Faith Andrews added "The hard work and dedication of my employees have afforded the Clerk's office the ability to fund this important pilot grant program with Perry Township and the Sheriff. Safe communities are a critical variable to maintaining a high quality life and creating private sector economic development opportunities."

The Perry Township Trustee Robert Dawson explained "Township Trustees Nancy Steele, Rick Amos and I believe that providing effective and responsive localized policing across our township community means

safe neighborhoods to raise your family, build your home, and grow your business. Our Perry Township area wants a safer and more secure community and it is our responsibility as trustees to make that happen. The Trustees appreciate the grant opportunity presented to them by the Board of County Commission. We will be using our American Rescue Act funding for our township to pay for our part of the deputies provided for in the contract by Perry Township.”

Sheriff Frank Leonbruno explains “Watching the increase in crime across our four (4) townships, as well as the dramatic increase in violent crime nationally, requires an increased law enforcement presence in each of our areas on proactive patrols to make it clear to the criminal community that lawlessness is not acceptable here.”

“Today’s announcement of a county grant program in support of law enforcement is what collaboration within local government looks like. The Commissioners, Trustees and Sheriff, with financial support from the Clerk of Courts, put the residents of Perry Township first and effectively developed a comprehensive strategy to provide police coverage in a cost effective manner. We thank the Perry Township Trustees for being the first to take advantage of this new program and I look forward to a long partnership with Perry Township,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “We support law enforcement in Lake County, and this grant program helps them to help us build safer communities!”

“This program is an innovative partnership with multiple governmental offices that should be a model of how to proactively work together to provide critical public safety services in both the short and long-term,” noted Commissioner Ron Young.

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