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Lake County Commissioners and Clerk of Courts Announce Additional Sheriff Deputies In Painesville Township

The Board of Lake County Commissioners approved the second COPS grant at their November 9, 2021 meeting. With the assistance of Clerk of Courts Faith Andrews, the Commissioners created the 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 Painesville Township Trustees signed the contract and have become the second township in the Sheriff's patrol area to take advantage of this localized grant program. The Painesville Township Trustees explained that they would be hiring two (2) new deputies in a contract with the Lake County Sheriff's Office to patrol Painesville Township. Additionally, they will accept the second two (2) deputy sheriffs paid for by the Commissioners to add to local patrol in Painesville 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. Perry Township and Painesville Township have accepted the grant.

"As I stated a few week ago and reiterate today with this great news, 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 Painesville Township," said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

"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. It is important to note that Painesville Township, prior to this contract, had paid for six (6) Deputy Sheriff's to patrol Painesville Township. Those six deputies insured that one Deputy Sheriff would be on patrol in the Township 24 hours per day, seven (7) days per week. Under the new contract, an average of two (2) Deputies will be on patrol in Painesville Township at any given time," said Sheriff Frank Leonbruno.

“For my part, I want to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman Pennock and Trustees Cicconetti and Hillier for recognizing the immediate need to hire more deputies for the safety of Painesville Township. We 100% support the Police in Lake County and the COPS grant program demonstrates our commitment,” said Commissioner John Plecnik.

The COPS Grants will 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.

“The Board of Commissioners is pleased to collaborate with the Sheriff and Clerk of Court Andrews to assist the Painesville Township Trustees in providing additional deputies for their community. Obviously, the more security and police protection a community can offer the more economic development can be expected. If you want great jobs and career opportunities in Lake County, investment in policing is critical,” said Commissioner Ron Young.

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