



Board of Commissioners

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lakecountyohio.gov

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

The Lake County Commissioners recently approved a request for additional prosecutors and staff for the Lake County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, which represents an additional investment of approximately \$250,000 per budget year. The request was submitted during the 2022 budget hearings conducted in February, where County Prosecutor Charles E. Coulson requested two additional Assistant Prosecutors, one Legal Secretary and one Victim's Advocate.

"I appreciate the difficult job the Commissioners have in administering a fair and sustainable budget for the entire County during these unprecedented times. Today's announcement by the Board to increase funding for the County Prosecutor's Office shows their commitment to public safety and support for law enforcement. The Prosecutor's Office has experienced its highest caseload ever. Additionally, due to increases in technology and new multiple sources of evidence, the



Commissioner John Plecnik and Prosecutor Charles Coulson discussing current issues with Lake County's victim's advocates.

complexity and the difficulty in prosecuting each case has increased. And most unfortunately, there has been a significant increase in crime violence and the use of firearms. Commissioner John Plecnik has been an advocate and supporter of my office and instrumental in recognizing our budgetary needs. The additional prosecutors, secretary, and victim advocate are important to keeping Lake County safe. I also want to acknowledge appreciation for Commissioner President Hamercheck and Commissioner Young for this unanimous support of my office," said Prosecutor Coulson.

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The County Prosecutor's Office is a full-service law firm representing all of the County's boards and offices, various other political subdivisions and the State of Ohio. The Office has multiple divisions including Criminal and Civil Services, Child Support, and Juvenile Services. Prosecutor Coulson also administers a Victim's Assistance Program and manages the Lake County Crime Laboratory.

"I take the County budgeting process extremely serious and appreciate Prosecutor Coulson notifying the Board of his staffing situation at the 2022 budget meetings. Budget appropriation increases, while often difficult, are decisions that require strong leadership choices by the Board and one that I support in our commitment to provide a safe county," noted Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

"As a law professor, I cannot overstate my commitment and support of law and order in our County. I am grateful to Prosecutor Coulson and his dedicated staff for their daily pursuit of justice. From the legal support staff, Victim's Advocates and attorneys practicing law in our Courts, it is essential that the Lake County Prosecutor's Office possess the necessary resources to effectively represent our County in civil and criminal proceedings," said Commissioner John Plecnik.

The County Commissioners reduced the County's General Fund budget nearly 10% in June 2020 due to the fiscal uncertainties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County Prosecutor's Office was included in this reduction, and this budget increase reflects the need to reinvest in the office.

"Prosecutor Coulson and his entire staff provide an invaluable service to Lake County and they deserve the necessary resources to effectively protect the residents of our great County," said Commissioner Ron Young.

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