



SUPERVISOR PAT BATES • FIFTH DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Kristen Thornton
(714) 834-3550

Patricia C. Bates Responds to Reductions to Law Enforcement Budgets

SANTA ANA – Supervisor Patricia C. Bates, Chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, issued the following statement in response to the Sheriff’s Department budget reductions:

“During these hard economic times, the Board of Supervisors has been forced to make some very difficult decisions. Of course, any cuts to law enforcement budgets are the hardest to make because the foremost responsibility of government is ensuring the protection of its citizens. It’s important to note that public safety agencies have taken a particularly large hit because the sales tax revenues that fund a significant portion of their budgets have declined dramatically.

In our discussions with the Sheriff over the past several months, we have all agreed that making sure we maintain adequate community policing is our top priority and that focusing the reductions at the administrative levels rather than line services is the direction we want the cuts to take. I believe that law enforcement officers also have a unique opportunity to contribute by considering options such as furloughs and pay reductions as interim measures to help protect against impactful layoffs.

We understand these are difficult cuts for the Sheriff’s Department, as with all our County departments, and the Board will continue to work collaboratively with the Sheriff to ensure smooth implementation of the reduction plan she has set forth.”

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