



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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**Chad Chronister, Sheriff**  
**Jose Docobo, Chief Deputy**  
*Hillsborough County, Florida*

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Sandra Murman, Chairman  
Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners  
601 East Kennedy Boulevard  
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Chairman Murman:

Attached please find the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) FY19 budget request. This request of \$429,857,390 in Countywide and Unincorporated Area General Funds, and an additional \$3,183,095 in Special Revenue Funds, was prepared with recognition that although county revenues have improved, we must continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner. This submission represents a modest 3.35% increase over the adopted FY18 budget.

This moderate increase occurs during a time in which our organization must expand in order to meet the demands of an ever-growing population and legislative requirements. Florida has become the third most populous state in the country and Hillsborough County is ranked the 28<sup>th</sup> most populous of the nation's 3,142 counties. Despite the increasing population, the most recent data published by the Florida Association of Counties shows that Hillsborough County ranks 45<sup>th</sup> out of all Florida Counties in the percentage of county budget dollars spent on law enforcement and corrections services.

The HCSO FY19 budget submission demonstrates our commitment to continue to provide the most efficient and effective law enforcement services to the citizens of Hillsborough County, while operating in a fiscally responsible manner. This budget was developed with an emphasis placed on cost savings and reductions when operationally feasible. Specifically, we have been able to manage our Workers' Compensation claims so effectively that our historical trend, based on actuarial data and actual claims, runs more than 50% below the premium rates approved by the Florida Department of Financial Services and published by the National Council of Compensation Insurance. In addition, we have further reduced our funding request for vacant positions by 17.5% compared to FY18. This budget request only includes \$23,038,417 of the \$35,443,718 necessary to fully fund our current vacancies for the entire fiscal year. The County must keep in mind that, in the future, it will be necessary to fully fund positions which have previously been partially unfunded as we are able to hire and train qualified personnel. In addition, it will become necessary to increase law enforcement personnel to keep pace with the expansive population growth within the county. This will be essential if we desire to continue to maintain our crime reductions and provide effective law enforcement, detention and court services to the citizens of our county.

Letter to Chairman Sandra Murman  
May 1, 2018  
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Despite a slight increase in the UCR Part I crime volume of 0.7%, when adjusted for the population increase in the county, the overall crime rate in Hillsborough County in 2017 was down 1.2%. Over the past ten years, we have experienced a 54% reduction in crime. In 2017, there were 16.8 crimes per 1,000 residents as compared 42.9 crimes per 1,000 residents in 2007. Although recent trends indicate a slight shift upwards in violent crimes, we are still at historic lows of 2.2 violent crimes per 1,000 residents, compared to 5.7 violent crimes per 1,000 residents in 2007. These crime rates are the lowest of comparable urban jurisdictions in the State of Florida.

Stringent hiring, training and performance standards, along with effective manpower conservation programs, have enabled the HCSO to function with much lower staffing levels than other comparable communities. However, in order to continue to effectively serve the citizens and visitors of our county, it will be necessary to add additional personnel in order to maintain a staffing ratio to provide crime prevention and public safety for the ever-increasing service demands brought on by the growing population. This is extremely critical as the HCSO's actual deputy-to-citizen staffing ratio was 1.3 deputies per 1,000 in 2017. When compared to the national average of 2.4 law enforcement officers per 1,000 residents (FBI, Crime in the U.S. 2017), it is apparent we are well below the national average. For local comparison purposes, the Tampa Police Department's ratio was 2.9 officers per 1,000 residents.

As you are aware, during this past legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. Implementation of this Act has placed an unprecedented impact on law enforcement resources throughout the state. Although we currently provide School Resource Deputies (SRDs) at all Senior High and Middle Schools throughout unincorporated Hillsborough County, as well as 20 elementary schools, implementation of this act will require that we staff SRDs at additional elementary and charter schools throughout unincorporated Hillsborough County. Although staffing these positions at a time when we are already critically understaffed will create a significant burden on our manpower, I am committed to prioritizing our already scarce resources to ensure the safety and well-being of our most valuable future resources. However, additional funding must be identified as we are able to hire more deputies, as well as keeping pace with the increased service demands brought about by a growing population.

Sincerely,



Chad Chronister  
Sheriff

cc: Commissioner Kemp; Commissioner Crist; Commissioner Higginbotham; Commissioner Hagan; Commissioner Miller; Commissioner White; Mr. Mike Merrill, County Administrator

Sheriff, Hillsborough County  
Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019

**BUDGET CERTIFICATION**

Account Number  
521, 523 & 711 Function


To : Sandra Murman, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners

I submit to you the following budget for the operation of the Hillsborough County Sheriff for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019.

ACTIVITY 711	Court Services	ACTIVITY 521	Law Enforcement	ACTIVITY 523	Detention	Total	Function
.10 Personal Services	18,616,070	.10 Personal Services	206,974,080	.10 Personal Services	117,475,810	.10 Personal Services	343,065,960
.30 Operating Expenses	356,260	.30 Operating Expenses	29,006,170	.30 Operating Expenses	42,193,480	.30 Operating Expenses	71,555,910
.60 Capital Outlay	20,000	.60 Capital Outlay	15,727,415	.60 Capital Outlay	2,671,200	.60 Capital Outlay	18,418,615
Total	18,992,330	Total	251,707,665	Total	162,340,490	Total	433,040,485

  
Chad Chronister, Sheriff

Before me, this 1st day of May 2018, Appeared Chad Chronister, Sheriff of Hillsborough County, Florida, who is personally known to me and who did not take an oath and who states that the best of his knowledge and belief the above established amounts are reasonable and necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the Sheriff's Office for the ensuing year.

  
Notary Public

