



Sheriff Eric Flowers

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

June 13, 2023

The Honorable Joe Earman
Indian River Board of County Commissioners
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3388

Re: Forfeiture Trust Fund

Dear Chairman Earman:

Florida Statute 932.7055, the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, provides that proceeds and interest earned from the forfeiture of real or personal property shall be used for providing additional equipment and may not be used to meet normal operating expenses of the law enforcement agency. These funds are the direct result of our deputies' diligent law enforcement efforts and are derived mainly from drug related offenses. None of the funds are derived from county tax dollars.

Additionally, the statute requires that no less than 25% of forfeiture proceeds within a fiscal year must be expended or donated to support the operation of any drug treatment, drug abuse education, drug prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer programs. The law enforcement agency has the discretion to determine which program(s) will receive the designated proceeds.

Pursuant to the above statute, I am requesting that \$215,034 from our Law Enforcement Trust Fund be used to purchase equipment and support the programs and agencies listed below:

\$204,534 to be used for the purchase of equipment and protection for both Law Enforcement and Corrections, as well as life-saving supplies for the Indian River County public.

\$1,000 will go to the Executive Roundtable of Indian River County, Inc. Their mission is to identify solutions that will protect and enhance the lives of Indian River County children, individuals, families, and seniors.

\$1,000 will go to Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers to help solve crimes. Approximately 22% of all tips result in arrests. Currently, many leads are being investigated.

\$1,000 will go to A Child is Missing to support their high-speed telephone alert system. This alert system is initiated within Indian River County when a child is reported missing.

\$1,000 will go to the Mental Health Collaborative. Their mission is to establish a continuation of care for mental health. Their goal is to increase access, decrease duplication and facilitate community wide support of mental health issues.

\$1,000 will be used to support the annual Florida Missing Children's Day ceremony. This statewide ceremony honors police officers and civilians that have assisted in missing children cases and raises statewide awareness to help prevent abduction and sexual exploitation .

\$1,000 will go to Childcare Resources of Indian River County. Their mission is to ensure the availability and affordability of high-quality early childhood and family support programs for children of income eligible working families in Indian River County.

\$1,000 will go to the Pastoral Association of Indian River County. The Pastoral Association works within the community to provide guidance to address community issues. It has a relationship with the Sheriff's Office as well as clergy within the community.

\$1,000 will go to SafeSpace. They provide emergency shelter and outreach services to victims of intimate partner violence and have had a longstanding relationship with the Sheriff's Office and their victim advocates.

\$1,000 will go to Suncoast Mental Health. They provide mental and behavioral health services to at-risk children, adults and families with limited resources in their local community.

\$500 will go to the Florida Agricultural Crimes Intelligence. Their mission is to promote and facilitate the exchange of agricultural related intelligence to law enforcement officers specializing in agriculture crime investigations in the State of Florida.

\$500 will go to the Florida Crime Prevention Association. Their mission is to provide up-to-date training and networking opportunities with other agencies in an effort to enhance the crime prevention profession in the State of Florida

\$500 will go to the Florida FBI National Academy Associates. It is a non-profit, international organization of 17,000 senior law enforcement professionals dedicated to providing communities, states, countries, and profession with the highest degree of law enforcement expertise, training, education and information

Please place this item under Constitutional Officers for the June 20, 2023 board agenda. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 978-6404. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric Flowers
Sheriff

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