



# *Sheriff Eric Flowers*

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

February 25, 2026

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

Re: Forfeiture Trust Fund

Dear Chairman Loar:

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 a number of enumerated purposes. 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.

Pursuant to Fla. Stat. §932.7055(5)(b), I hereby certify that the requests made below comply the provisions therein, and I am requesting that \$274,017 from our Law Enforcement Trust Fund be used to purchase equipment and support the programs and agencies listed below:

Under Fla. Stat. §932.7055(5)(a), which permits the Sheriff's Office to use such monies for school resource officer, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, drug abuse education and prevention programs, or for other law enforcement purposes, which include defraying the cost of protracted or complex investigations, providing additional equipment or expertise, purchasing automated external defibrillators for use in law enforcement vehicles, and providing matching funds to obtain federal grants:

\$263,017 to be used for the purchase of additional equipment and protection for both Law Enforcement and Corrections, as set forth in greater detail in the breakdown attached to this letter as Exhibit A. This request is higher due to the current and projected General Fund budget restrictions which are impacting the operations of the agency.

Under Fla. Stat. §932.7055(5)(c), which permits an agency or organization, other than the seizing agency, to apply for funds to the Sheriff to use such funds for an authorized purpose, which include school resource officer, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, drug abuse education and prevention programs, or for other law enforcement purposes as this Board deems appropriate:

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

\$1,000 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 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 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 to Autism Theater Project. Their mission is to ensure that "everyone has a voice" and they provide resources to teach empathy, resilience, and perseverance in schools and educational programs.

\$500 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 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 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

\$500 to the InterAgency Board (IAB) Foundation. It is a non-profit with the mission to strengthen the nation's ability to prepare for and respond safely and effectively to emergencies, disasters and CBRNE incidents by emphasizing interoperability, compatibility, and standardization; fostering a multidisciplinary perspective; facilitating effective intergovernmental partnerships; being a credible voice of the responder community; being proactive and sharing field operational experiences and practices

Please place this item under Constitutional Officers for the March 10, 2026 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