



Pegasus Report

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Current Report

- Update on Congressional Funding for Local Law Enforcement
- Agency Spotlight: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Update on Congressional Funding for Local Law Enforcement

With the Appropriations Committees for both the Senate and the House having completed work on FY2007 Department of Justice appropriations, and final enactment into law scheduled for the next few months, it is clear that the Appropriations Committees of Congress have once again taken on the job of "heavy lifting" to support local law enforcement.

The **House Appropriations Committee** reported first, led by **S-S-J-C Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Frank Wolf (VA)**, with bi-partisan support from **Cong. Marion Berry (AR)** and others. As the **IACP Capitol Report** recently noted, "The House, following the lead of the Appropriations Committee, largely rejected administration proposals that would have sharply reduced local law enforcement grants. The bill would provide \$2.7 billion for assistance to state and local law enforcement, which is more than double the \$1.1 billion requested by the administration."

With strong support from the **Senate Appropriations Committee** leadership, in particular, **Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran (MS)** and **C-J-S Subcommittee Chairman Richard Shelby (AL)** and **Ranking Member Barbara Mikulski (MD)**, the Senate, like the House, rejected administration proposals to significantly reduce state and local law enforcement programs, noting in the Senate Report (S.Rept. 109-280): "Despite the largest increase in violent crime in the United States since 1991, the Committee notes with disappointment the administration's proposed elimination of most funding for State and local law enforcement assistance programs." The Senate Bill provides \$1.93 billion for assistance to State and local law enforcement, \$733 million above the Administration's request, including \$555 million for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grants program (\$555 million above the Administration's request), \$176 million to eliminate DNA backlogs (\$176 million above the request), and \$85.0 million for methamphetamine hot spots (\$44.9 million above the request).

The Nationwide Pegasus Program is also recommended for funding in both the Senate and House bills, which will next go to House-Senate Conference over the next few months.

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Agency Spotlight: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Currently, along with more than 700 local agencies in 30 other states, 36 California local law enforcement locations share local law enforcement data via the Pegasus Program—Sheriff's Departments, Police Departments or substations—and 16 California agencies contribute data for nationwide information sharing.

Of these, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) has the largest number of Pegasus data users—30 Crime Analysts and 10 Investigative Support personnel—and is also the largest Pegasus data contributor. LASD was one of the very first agencies to contribute data through the Pegasus Program, and LASD Sheriff Lee Baca serves on the Pegasus Advisory Board.

Law enforcement throughout California and the Nation—from Maine to Mississippi to Colorado—have advised that access to LASD information is an important crime-fighting, public safety and homeland security tool, heightened now by highly mobile nationwide criminal gang activity. Through Pegasus, LASD and other California agencies both contribute data that is used by their counterparts nationwide, and access data contributed by agencies nationwide.



Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, Pegasus Advisory Board Chairman Tommy Ferrell, & Pegasus Research Foundation President Lee Colwell
At a recent meeting in Los Angeles

Questions? Comments?

Agencies with questions or comments are invited to **contact Dr. Lee Colwell at 501-975-9111 or the Pegasus Support Center at 800-392-4312.**