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## **P R E S S R E L E A S E**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Deputy Sheriffs' Association Agrees to Contact Changes Helping Santa Barbara County to Save \$4 million**

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors' Chair Janet Wolf, Second District, and Deputy Sheriffs' Association (DSA) President Todd Johnson jointly announced today that members of the association have approved contract agreements with the County that will help save \$4.1 million during the next four years.

The deputies approved the agreement Thursday night, May 27. The vote capped weeks of negotiations that resulted in a tentative agreement put before the DSA members during meetings this week to ratify the proposed contract changes.

"This is great news that our deputy sheriffs are moving forward with agreements to help the County and our taxpayers during these challenging economic times," Second District Supervisor Wolf said. "This is the latest in a series of on-going discussions with our labor organizations to help save the County money. I want to thank our deputies and the DSA leadership for recognizing the situation and making a significant contribution."

DSA President Johnson said the agreements "represent a significant achievement for the County with real savings that will help protect programs, services and jobs." Members voted 191 to 135 to approve the agreement, he said. "Our members understood the situation and voted to support the changes in order to help our community," Johnson added.

Johnson said the agreement defers two previously negotiated salary increases, a 2.5 percent increase scheduled to go into effect February 22, 2010 that was deferred to July 12, 2010; and a 3 percent increase scheduled to go into effect August 23, 2010 that was deferred to February 21, 2011.

The agreement also includes:

- a 3-percent reduction in wages from July 12, 2010 to February 17, 2013
- a contract reopener scheduled for July 11 to consider an alternative medical insurance plan for the DSA
- a contract reopener scheduled for October 10 (or a later agreed-to date) regarding retirement for new employees and retiree medical for new employees
- extended the expiration date of the current MOU one year, until February 2013
- using a portion of the cost savings to reduce employee retirement costs for the Sheriff's Department DSA

'I'm very proud of the DSA and our deputies for stepping up and helping,' Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said. "These savings would not be possible without the hard work of a lot of people, the DSA leadership and our deputies are to be commended."

The DSA agreement comes just a few days after other County labor organizations agreed to concessions for their contracts. Earlier this week, the County announced concession agreements were reached which will help save the County an additional \$9.64 million during the current and upcoming fiscal years. Those agreements were with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 620, the Engineers and Technicians Association (ETA), the Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD) and certain unrepresented Confidential employees. Combined, these unions represent about 2,200 of the County's 4,000 employees, in addition to the 464-member DSA.

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