|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | http://intranet/Images/dps_logo_print2.gif | Intranet Printer Friendly Printed: 11/8/2010 1:36:08 PM | | |
|  | |
| **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR HALLIDAY** | |
| In the past two fiscal years, the Department has searched for ways to reduce our appropriated budget to meet executive and legislative mandates. These efforts have been far reaching and have significantly reduced pay, benefits, and of course, morale. We have attempted to minimize the impact to public safety and Department employees, but reductions in pay and benefits were inevitable. Recent events, however, have motivated me to make a few mid-course corrections.  At the beginning of this fiscal year, the Department enacted some reductions in order to operate within the funding levels allocated by the State. Within the established FY 2011 budget was the presumption that we would attempt to fill most of the attrition that occurred during the fiscal year. However, as the States budget situation has remained very unstable, we have chosen to conduct very limited hiring. This has resulted in some limited vacancy savings in the current fiscal year. With these vacancy savings from attrition, the Department is currently in a position to restore some prior reductions – at least for the time being. While there is no guarantee we will be able to sustain these restorations, I believe that our employees have faced too many hits to their compensation and that we should sustain current pay and benefit levels if at all possible. This will be my continuing strategy as we plan for and discuss future budgets with the Governors Office and the Legislature.  **Remote Duty Housing Rent**  Fund sweeps in FY 2010 resulted in some remote housing rent being returned to the State General Fund. This effectively means our remote duty officers who paid rent so that their houses can be maintained properly had their hard earned salary dollars swept back into the overall state budget. To avoid this in the future, I have immediately reduced all State house rent to $50. Officers in state houses should see this change in their December paychecks.  **Special Duty Assignment Pay**  The LEMSC reinstated the SDA in the Aviation Section. Since this was not the only unit that experienced a reduction in SDA last year, I feel its only fair and ethical to reinstate all SDAs that were reduced this fiscal year. SDA pay will be restored retroactive to July 2010. The calculations for the back pay will require some time, but I am committed to ensuring the payments are made and SDAs reinstated by the end of calendar 2010.  **Uniform Allowance**  The Departments uniform allowance program was discontinued for FY 2010 and  FY 2011. We do not know if we can reinstate the program on an ongoing basis, but we are currently able to make the following one-time uniform allowance payments:   * $500 for uniformed sworn personnel, detention transport officers, and civilian security officers * $212.50 for non-uniformed sworn personnel (who must still maintain uniforms for use when needed) * $125 for all other uniformed civilian personnel   It is the Departments intent to make these payments this calendar year. More detail will be forthcoming on the timing of the payments. We will evaluate whether we can make these payments in the future as the budget situation unfolds.  **Summary**  These efforts are not without risk. The current fiscal year State budget contains a deficit of approximately one billion dollars. Its very possible the Department will suffer a midyear budget reduction. I have begun efforts to communicate my priorities for the DPS budget with the executive and legislative bodies that control our appropriations. While Im hopeful we will not have to reduce our budget further, its a potential we must prepare for.  Finally, Id like to thank each and every one of you for not just doing your job, but taking on more and more responsibility as we continue to experience attrition without replacements. Everyone has remained positive despite tough times and maintained the professional image and attitude that is the Department of Public Safety. Thank you. | |
|  | |
| Contact: | HALLIDAY, ROBERT | Phone: (602)223-2359 |
| Requestor: | HALLIDAY, ROBERT | Phone: (602)223-2359 |
| Last Modified: | 11/8/2010 11:27:54 AM |
| Posting ID: | 4755 |
|  | |
| [**Print**](http://intranet/Home/view_print.asp?pid=4755) | [**Close Window**](javascript:window.close()) | |