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**TO:** Dina Martinez  
Arizona Governor's Office of Economic Recovery

**FROM:** Michael A. Pastor, Chairman  
Gila County Board of Supervisors *MAP*

**RE:** Public Safety Stabilization Program

**DATE:** September 17, 2010

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Gila County submits the following proposal in accordance with the guidelines for awards of Public Safety Stabilization Program (PSSP) funds.

Strategy/Proposal:

Gila County is experiencing a decrease in sales tax revenues and a depressed housing market which is limiting property tax revenue. The State of Arizona has compounded this economic crisis by withholding State Shared Revenues (in particular, the County Assistance Fund) and has shifted its share of costs of mandated programs, such as Restoration to Competency, to be borne entirely by Counties. In response to this unprecedented economic predicament, Gila County instituted an across-the-board hiring freeze and has not granted regular salary step increases since January, 2008. In the Gila County Sheriff's Department in particular, vacant positions cannot, at this time, be filled; nor can monies be budgeted for overtime costs to offset that shortage of deputies.

During the last six months of FY 2009/2010, overtime hours were 1129 less than the same time in the preceding year. That reduction was a response to lack of available funding and not to a reduction in criminal activity which, as could reasonably have been expected, was on the rise during a time of economic recession.

Gila County officials do not want their citizens to be without reliable emergency responders and are, therefore, requesting a one-time award of PSSP funds in the amount of \$97,465 to supplement general fund monies to pay overtime and fringe benefit costs for Sheriff Deputies in Detective and Patrol units for the remainder of FY 2010/2011. This award will provide supplemental funding for the Gila County Sheriff's Department to provide a more appropriate level of emergency response and law enforcement throughout Gila County.

Outcome Goals/Performance Measures:

While Gila County cannot, in the foreseeable future, fill vacant full-time Sheriff Deputy positions, it can – with a one-time award of PSSP funds – provide reliable law enforcement/emergency response by offering additional hours to existing personnel for the remainder of the current fiscal year.