



Middlesex Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian

400 Mystic Avenue, Medford, MA 02155

office: 781-960-2800 fax: 781-960-2902

www.middlesexsheriff.com

For Immediate Release

August 14, 2012

For more information:

Kevin Maccioli

Public Information Officer/MSO

781-960-2805/ 978-726-7825

Sheriff Koutoujian, Government Leaders Announce State Funding for Regional Lockup Plan

\$1.5 million will allow Middlesex Sheriff's Office to move forward on regional holding facility

Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian together with Middlesex police chiefs and Legislative leaders announced that a proposed regional lockup to serve communities across Middlesex County has moved a major step closer to reality.

After Sheriff Koutoujian, local officials and police chiefs secured House and Senate backing for the project in the final weeks of the Legislative session, the Executive Office of Administration and Finance committed to funding the \$1.5 million estimated project cost using capital expenditures.

"Securing funding for the regional holding facility was a team effort that included every police chief in Middlesex County," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "A regional lockup will help save local departments money and allow them to take officers off prisoner watch and put them on community watch."

"The Middlesex Chiefs of Police has made the development of a regional lockup a priority for many years," said Natick Police Chief James Hicks. "A regional lockup will be a tremendous value to each department that has to house prisoners pre-arraignment overnight. Many departments do not have the facility or staff to perform this task effectively. When the Governor was going through the process of appointing the new Sheriff he asked the Chiefs what our priorities were and this was clearly number one. With the appointment of Sheriff Koutoujian he committed to working on this project. He and his staff have been developing plans to get the project moving and the recent funding request shows his commitment. The Chiefs of Middlesex County highly support this project and will work diligently to bring it to fruition."

Currently, in order for police departments to monitor and protect detainees in their custody, they are required to use limited staff resources that would otherwise be assigned in the field. Under a regional lock-up proposal endorsed by the Middlesex Chiefs of Police, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office would hold detainees in a safe and secure location at the Billerica House of Correction.

By removing the need for police departments to have a police officer posted at a holding facility, this lock-up proposal would constitute a better, more efficient use of manpower, while saving resources and protecting public safety.

###