September 8, 2009

EMAIL MEMORANDUM

To:               All Constitutional Officers and Regional Jail Superintendents
From:            Robyn de Socio, Executive Secretary
Subject:        Overview of Governor’s FY10 Budget Reduction Plans Impacting Compensation Board Funding for Constitutional Officers

Governor Kaine announced today his FY10 Budget Reduction Plan to address the present $1.35 billion shortfall in funding for the current fiscal year. Earlier in the summer, Governor Kaine asked agencies to provide plans for achieving reductions of 5, 10 and 15 percent, and for the Compensation Board, these savings targets included reimbursement funding for Constitutional Officers.

The Governor’s full reduction plan can be located on the web at http://www.dpb.virginia.gov/forms/20090908-1/Reductions2010.PDF.

With respect to FY10 funding for constitutional officers, two overall strategies impacting all constitutional officers have been included in the FY10 reduction plan – a 5% across-the-board reduction, and the reintroduction of previously restored reductions of up to 10%. The combination of these strategies results in the following budget reduction amounts by constitutional officer group:

Sheriffs and Regional Jails – 4.7% appropriation reduction at $19,539,996
Commonwealth’s Attorneys – 5% appropriation reduction at $2,522,576
Circuit Court Clerks – 15% appropriation reduction at $4,231,307
Treasurers – 15% appropriation reduction at $1,590,015
Finance Directors – 15% appropriation reduction at $931,155
Commissioners of the Revenue – 15% appropriation reduction at $1,608,248

These reduction amounts are based upon general fund appropriations excluding the salaries of the elected constitutional officers.

Additionally, for all constitutional officers, a component of these strategies includes the authorization for the Compensation Board to eliminate the current 90-day vacancy freeze and restrictions on the use of vacancy savings by converting the related annual savings amounts to additional across-the-board reductions. This will be a matter for consideration by the Compensation Board in the coming week.

With respect to nongeneral funds, a line of credit is to be established for the Circuit Court Clerks’ Technology Trust Fund to allow for the use of $7 million in FY10 fund collections for current year expenditures and transferring out a like amount in presently available cash.
Compensation Board staff is currently reviewing the FY10 Reduction Plan strategies for discussion with your association leadership and presentation to the Compensation Board at its September meeting on Wednesday, September 16. More information regarding implementation plans for these reduction strategies will be available after board review next week. Given that only minimal percentages of funding are attributed to non-salary funds in all offices, the reductions will invariably affect funding for staff in some way. As an interim measure, officers may wish to review their May 1 approved budget for FY10 (less the salary of the elected officer) as the basis for quantifying the reduction level that may be applicable to your office.

Additional information regarding specific targets by office and implementation of these reductions will be provided as soon as possible once discussed with your association leadership and the Compensation Board.

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