

THOMAS D. ALLMAN
Sheriff-Coroner



Undersheriff Gary Hudson

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County of Mendocino Office Of The Sheriff-Coroner

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For Immediate Release

SHERIFF'S OFFICE AWARDED \$2 MILLION DOLLAR RURAL JUSTICE GRANT

September 11, 2009, Ukiah, CA — U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson's office notified Sheriff Allman today that the \$2,067,129 Rural Law Enforcement to Combat Crime and Drugs Competitive grant had been awarded to the County of Mendocino. Sheriff Allman is the County's authorized agent for this grant, which will provide funding for a new comprehensive criminal justice computer software suite and staff time.

As a part of the American Recovery Act, the Department of Justice made these funds available to improve the sharing of criminal justice information across multi-jurisdictional law enforcement agencies. This grant will replace old legacy systems and implement new systems that will streamline numerous internal processes, foster the sharing of information between law enforcement agencies and ultimately enhance public safety throughout Mendocino County.

The system currently in place requires the same data be entered multiple times in multiple systems within multiple agencies. This new system will allow secure sharing of criminal information with the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office, the Probation Department, Juvenile Hall, Public and Alternate Defenders Offices, Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Willits Police Departments, Mendocino County Courts, with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office serving as the center of the hub.

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The data collected from all sources including patrol operations, jail operations, investigative operations, and administrative operations from the Sheriff's Office, and the three police departments located within our County. Criminal information securely stored in this new system could be made available to outside agencies to help in investigations reaching beyond our county border. Sheriff Allman has been in contact with all three police chiefs and has assured them that it is a priority of his to ensure all new operating systems must work well with the operating systems that the police departments currently use.

Sheriff Allman thanks Congressman Thompson for being so involved in this process. "I'd like to thank Congressman Mike Thompson for his continuous and unrelenting support on this project. His efforts have been instrumental in bringing Mendocino County Law Enforcement into the 21st century. He understands our needs to upgrade our technology and improve our efficiency." stated the Sheriff.