

**PHILADELPHIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2022 ORAL BUDGET TESTIMONY**  
**MAY 19TH, 2021**

**INTRODUCTION**

Good [Morning/Afternoon], President Clarke and Members of City Council. I am Sheriff Rochelle Bilal. I am pleased to provide testimony on The Philadelphia Sheriff's Office Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget.

The FY22 Budget General Fund request for Philadelphia Sheriff's Department is \$26,795,874.00.

This past year, we have focused on modernizing our office infrastructure, improving performance in all phases of operations, and overall enhancing our services provided to the City of Philadelphia. Under my leadership, there has been a renewed focus on community outreach and constituent services. The Philadelphia Sheriff's Office and its partners have distributed food to more than 16,000 families in Philadelphia.

With the requested funds for FY22, the Philadelphia Sheriff's Office plans to:

1. ***Increase the number of deputies on the force so that we can better serve the courts and assist the City with law enforcement requests.*** Our sworn employees are an integral part of every large event that happens in the city, and requests for our presence at events like concerts, festivals and other gatherings were rapidly increasing before the pandemic.
2. ***Support the professional development of all deputies.*** This goal will be accomplished through continuing our training program, which includes tactical training and active shooter training, as well as training for crisis management, crisis intervention, and mental health crises. Here are just a few examples of what our deputies confront on a regular basis:
  - a. While serving a warrant on a probation violation, they received information from the Special Victims Unit of the PPD that a missing female believed to be part of a trafficking situation was in the basement of the location. They found the missing female, who was deceased.

- b. While out serving warrants, deputies heard gunshots and observed a body and a male running away from the scene. They gave chase while also providing information on the male fleeing the scene. They pursued the male, who ran down into the subway. With the description provided by the deputies, PPD arrested the male and recovered a gun.
  - c. A deputy was in his home when he heard screaming outside. He went outside and noticed an elderly neighbor yelling, “He tried to rob me!” while pointing at a white male pushing a cart. The male was detained until the PPD arrived, and he was subsequently arrested.
3. A crucial part of our budget will be devoted to finding a way to bring all training home to Philadelphia, including the 19-week program currently occurring in State College. By having this program occur within city limits, it would greatly expand the number of prospective applicants – fathers, mothers and guardians would be able to come home after a day of training to their families, instead of having to live on campus or in a hotel and then drive more than three hours each way

over the weekend. In addition to improving staff morale, this will result in reduced travel costs.

4. ***Increase the effectiveness of our gun lock distribution and weapon recovery programs.*** In these unprecedented times of record gun violence, we plan to ramp up our efforts on both these fronts as we continue to do our part to make Philadelphians safer, including through our continuing support serving Protection From Abuse orders.
5. ***Educate property owners on how to prevent sale of their properties when possible.*** We will be expanding our informational outreach on the foreclosure process and how to avoid it, and to assist previous homeowners in retrieving any excess proceeds from the sale of their properties via the Home Assets Recovery Team (H.A.R.T.) program.
6. ***Complete at least five Sheriff Sales per month.*** This would encompass one mortgage foreclosure sale and four tax sales.
7. ***Broaden the marketplace and increase the number of participating buyers.*** By achieving this – and making the Sheriff Sale process fair and accessible to all who want to participate, we can make inroads in the battle to prevent

gentrification by ensuring that more individuals have a fair shot at purchasing homes, and the increased number of bidders will result in higher prices paid, which will return more money to those who have lost their homes to foreclosure.

8. ***Continue to improve the systems of internal controls with respect to finance and accounting.***
9. ***Rectify all audit exceptions left over from the previous administrations.***
10. ***Update computer and technical equipment.***

***NOTE: For 8-10, I am happy to fill in details if you would like – I have all team members here to respond to any questions or concerns.***

Thank you for your continued support and consideration of this request. I am happy to take any questions.