The 2011 Realignment Act established a mandated process for allocation of monies for Trial Court Security; an MOU shall annually be developed between the Sheriff and the Courts, authorized by the BOS.* It is our understanding that the last MOU signed by all parties was in 2006. Is there a process underway to assure that a Court Security Plan and MOU is developed and agreed to in the 2017-18 FY, and presented to the BOS before the 2018-19 budget is developed?

*69926. Govt Code
(a) This section applies to the superior court and the sheriff in those counties in which the sheriff’s department provides court security services.
(b) The sheriff, with the approval and authorization of the board of supervisors, shall, on behalf of the county, enter into an annual or multiyear memorandum of understanding with the superior court specifying an agreed-upon level of court security services and any other agreed-upon governing or operating procedures. The memorandum of understanding and the court security plan may be included in a single document.

The Sheriff currently has staff assigned to work with the Superior Court on a new MOU. There have been several meetings so far this fiscal year. The Superior Court is not comfortable with the Sheriff’s proposed reduction of staffing and contends that under the Realignment Act, the level court security services cannot be reduced. County Counsel is reviewing this issue from a legal perspective.

The Superior Court has stated they are committed to working out an MOU with the Sheriff’s Department in the near term. In the event an agreement can’t be reached, there is a dispute resolution process which escalates the dispute to a higher level involving the State Court Administrator. However, both the Courts and the Sheriff’s Department anticipate that an agreement will be reached and an MOU signed and presented to the Board in the coming fiscal year.