November 17, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF KERN COUNTY SHERIFF/CORONER
Fiscal Impact: None

Sheriff Donny Youngblood, whose term expires January 8, 2029, announced his retirement effective January 8, 2027, creating a vacancy in the office of Sheriff/Coroner. Since there are 2 years remaining on the Sheriff's term of office, the Board has a couple of options to fill the vacancy prior to the next general election in 2028 when a new Sheriff/Coroner will be elected.

Options to fill the vacancy for the Office of Sheriff/Coroner until the next general election

California Government Code section 25304 authorizes the Board of Supervisors to fill the vacancy by appointment for the remainder of an unexpired term for elected county officers. Government Code section 24105 states that the duties of the Sheriff/Coroner shall be discharged by the Undersheriff until such appointment is made. Your Board's options are as follows:

1. Per the recommendation of Sheriff Youngblood, your Board may appoint current Undersheriff Larry McCurtain to serve as Sheriff/Coroner for the remainder of the term, which will end on January 8, 2029, or
2. Your Board may establish an application and selection process, including public interviews, to consider candidates for appointment.

Appointment of the Undersheriff

Sheriff Youngblood has recommended appointing current Undersheriff Larry McCurtain to succeed him, effective January 8, 2027. Undersheriff McCurtain has served the residents of Kern County through a law enforcement career spanning more than two decades. He joined the Kern County Sheriff's Office in 1999 as a Deputy Sheriff Trainee and advanced through the ranks of Deputy Sheriff, Senior Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Commander, Chief Deputy, and Undersheriff.

His professional qualifications include Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, and Management Certificates from the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership from Fresno Pacific University and a Master of Arts degree in Homeland Security and Defense from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Your Board may consider these qualifications in determining whether to appoint Undersheriff McCurtain for Option 1 or pursue an alternative selection process. If your Board chooses Option 2 to establish an application and selection process, staff will bring back to your Board the recommended procedures and timeline to facilitate that process.

County Counsel has reviewed and concurs that these are the available options for the Board to consider

IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board make an appointment of the Undersheriff under Option 1 for the remainder of the unexpired term effective January 8, 2027, through Monday, January 8, 2029, or provide direction to staff regarding the appointment process pursuant to option 2

Sincerely,

Nancy Anderson
County Administrative Officer

NA/JW ADM DH Sheriff/Coroner Appt

cc County Counsel
Sheriff/Coroner
Human Resources