



Media Alert

www.waynecounty.com/sheriff

BENNY N. NAPOLEON
Sheriff

Media Contact: Paula Bridges 313.354.5223

PASSAGE OF PROPOSAL J SUPPORTS PUBLIC SAFETY

Sheriff Napoleon credits voters with helping to make public safety a priority.

Detroit (August 8, 2012) – Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon applauds passage of Proposal J to renew the millage for operations at the Wayne County Jails. The impressive sixty percent voter approval means officials won't have to suffer the \$39 million loss to the budget a defeat would have created.

“This millage was vital to public safety which is why I took every opportunity to build support for Proposal J. Because of the interviews, emails and messages on social media that I conducted daily, voters were educated on how approving this millage would affect them, their families and neighborhoods,” said Sheriff Napoleon.

Plenty of confusion surrounded Proposal J leading into the primary which is why Napoleon's effort was critical to helping voters understand what the measure is and is not.

“Social media allowed us to get the word out to as many people as possible since the Sheriff's Office doesn't have the resources to pay for commercial advertising. And the biggest challenge was helping people to see it had nothing to do with the proposed Detroit Police Tax nor is it linked to construction of the new consolidated jail,” said Napoleon. **“Proposal J allows us to continue housing and monitoring individuals in the system at our current levels. Losing nearly \$40 million from the budget would have been devastating prompting a significant change in operations and an untold number of offenders being released daily. I could not allow that to happen without doing everything I could to help it pass.”**

The 0.9381 mill, which first passed in 1988, provides over \$39 million in revenue for jail operations and will be in effect for 10 years.

#####