



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 25, 2018

**DATE:** Monday, August 20, 2018  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Kerri Heward, Director Forensic Science Division  
(775) 328-2803; [KHeward@washoecounty.us](mailto:KHeward@washoecounty.us)  
**THROUGH:** Chuck Allen, Sheriff  
**SUBJECT:** Approve and authorize Non-County Employee Travel Expenses of approximately [\$1,500.00] for Kathy Geil to provide training on the use of the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) and the National Integrated Ballistic Information System (NIBIN) from October 16-20, 2018. (All Commission Districts)

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### SUMMARY

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office's Forensic Science Division requires training of additional personnel to meet the needs of the Firearms Section, to reduce the hundreds of backlogged cases in this section, and to conform to the new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) standards for the IBIS and NIBIN programs. Kathy Geil will provide training on these systems for two employees.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Safe, secure and healthy communities.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

None

### BACKGROUND

The IBIS and NIBIN systems are owned by ATF and are used to link firearms to crimes and shooting crime scenes to other shooting scenes. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office's Forensic Science Division is currently responsible for the only IBIS and NIBIN systems within Northern and Central Nevada and currently has a backlog of over 500 cases within the Firearms Section of the laboratory, with the majority of those cases being submitted for IBIS and NIBIN.

In April 2018, the Sheriff's Office partnered with other local and federal agencies to create a gun initiative with the mission of removing crime guns from Washoe County and becoming proactive with gun crime investigations. A major component of this initiative is the timely use of the IBIS and NIBIN systems. Additionally, in July of 2018, ATF

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developed new standards for the IBIS and NIBIN systems that would require a faster turnaround time for using the system and reporting information to the submitting agencies.

In order to meet the mission of the gun initiative, the new ATF standards, and the growing backlog within the Firearms Section, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division will be cross-training two current employees in the IBIS and NIBIN systems. As a requirement of ATF, an ATF approved trainer must conduct this training. There are no approved trainers within Washoe County and the Forensic Science Division is requesting to use funding to have an approved trainer, Kathy Geil, provide this training.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is adequate funding in cost center 150650's travel budget to cover the cost of travel expenses estimated at \$1,500.00.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve and authorize Non-County Employee Travel Expenses of approximately [\$1,500.00] for Kathy Geil to provide training on the use of the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) and the National Integrated Ballistic Information System (NIBIN) from October 16-20, 2018.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be to move to approve and authorize Non-County Employee Travel Expenses of approximately [\$1,500.00] for Kathy Geil to provide training on the use of the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) and the National Integrated Ballistic Information System (NIBIN) from October 16-20, 2018.