



# Sheriff's Office COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER  
District One

PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two

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District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY  
District Four

MIKE ENNIS  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** March 13, 2018

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Ed Lardner, Grant Specialist    PHONE: (559) 802-9462

**SUBJECT:** Approve an Access Agreement with Blackfin Inc.

**REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the Access Agreement with Blackfin Inc. for the period of March 13, 2018 through September 12, 2019.
2. Authorize the Chairman to sign four copies of the Access Agreement.

**SUMMARY:**

The Tulare County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) is requesting an access agreement with Blackfin Inc. (Producer) in connection with the filming, recording, and production by Producer of the audiovisual project tentatively entitled "Untitled Heist Project" (Project). TCSO was approached by Producer requesting access to our law enforcement activities and investigations related to our Agricultural Crimes Unit (AGU) to produce a TV show revolving around Ag crime.

AGU consists of six investigators, one Detective Sergeant and five Detectives, one of which is assigned to the Tulare County Auto Theft Unit (TRATT). The unit's personnel work closely with the assigned District Attorney's Office Agriculture investigator and prosecutor versed in the unique aspects of agriculture crime. AGU also educates and assists Ag related businesses and workers on theft prevention and with the proper marking of farm implements with an Owner Applied Number (OAN). Through the OAN program, in partnership with the District Attorney's Office, numerous high value farm implements have been recovered. AGU investigators meet regularly with the local Ag leaders as well as with other AGU investigators from surrounding agencies for the exchange of valuable information,

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and ensure they are well informed of current trends and similar cases. In FY 16/17, AGU wrote and served approx. 28 search warrants for Ag related crimes and thefts. Several large scale / long term investigations were conducted which resulted in arrests and recoveries of stolen property. TCSO has been a leader in crime prevention and agricultural crime investigation, having recently introduced "Smart Water CSI" to the agricultural community, a molecular compound used on Ag equipment and facilities to deter theft and identify Ag criminals. Sheriff Boudreaux is always looking for innovative ways to deter and combat crime when it does occur, by providing information to our community, and looking for unique ways to share information, such as this partnership with Producer.

Producer will have a film crew work directly with members of the AGU while they contact members of the agricultural community and investigate crimes. With Tulare County a national agricultural commodity leader with a gross production value of over \$6 billion in 2016, crimes related to agriculture continue, needing a specialized group of investigators to tackle the issue using innovative techniques and collaboration. The AGU has expanded under the direction of Sheriff Boudreaux due to the importance of crop and livestock related crime, to include trespassing on property and theft of equipment. We believe this partnership with Producer will bring insight to the important issues related to the prevention, detection and investigation of Ag related crime that can have an impact on those victimized.

TCSO will work closely with Producer during the filming of this Project to protect the location and identities of those that wish to remain anonymous and the confidentiality required by law. TCSO will be provided a copy of all filming before release by Producer and will work closely with Producer to ensure the integrity of all investigations remain intact. TCSO will have the right to halt filming when necessary and will review a version of the applicable episodes intended for broadcast and provide edits to Producer within time limits identified in the agreement. TCSO will be provided a copy of all episodes produced for public release.

The Sheriff's Office has been working with Blackfin Inc. since July 2017 on this agreement and policy issues. TCSO is confident that the results of this partnership with Producer will benefit the Ag community as well as Tulare County.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

All costs related to Producer's activities related to the Project will be borne by Producer. TCSO or the County will not reimburse Producer for any costs, nor will TCSO or the County receive any funds from Producer related to the Project. AGU will not conduct activities outside their normal course of duty that will incur any increase cost of operating the AGU. There is no net County costs.

#### **LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

The Safety and Security Initiative is one of four initiatives in the Tulare County Strategic Business Plan. The purpose of the initiative is to provide for safety and security of the public. The production of this Project will provide information to not

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only our County Ag partners but also the world on crime prevention information, detection of criminal activity, and investigative technique's used to catch criminals.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

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Mike Boudreaux  
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel  
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s) Access Agreement

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