



# HOW YOUR PENNY WORKS

## Keeping Your Neighborhood Safe

Since the one-cent sales tax was first approved by Escambia County citizens in 1992, you may have noticed a significant increase in the number of sheriff's cruisers on the street and in your neighborhood. Before your penny went to work, patrols were limited because of two main things—constrained funding for new cars and an aging fleet of cruisers requiring extensive maintenance and repair on a regular basis which resulted in vehicle down time. To conserve resources, deputies often had to sit and wait to be called by the public. With the help of your penny, cruisers can now be replaced at 125,000 miles rather than the previous 250,000 miles. Perhaps, more importantly, instead of waiting to be called, deputies can now patrol our neighborhoods allowing for a more rapid response to residents' calls for assistance and increased safety for the community. Response times for priority calls have steadily improved since 1998 from 7.22 minutes to 5.57 minutes in 2005, thanks in part to the one-cent funding.

Your penny at work is not limited to the purchase of new cruisers. It also helps to equip the cruisers with the law enforcement tools necessary in today's technological world. In-car cameras, computers, blue lights, sirens, cages, tires and special equipment wiring are all standard. In addition to new vehicles and equipment, your penny at work has built a much needed expansion to central booking and a new administrative building where the public has access to services such as fingerprinting, requesting background checks, recording checks, paying child support and applying for restraining orders.

If the continuation is approved by voters on March 7, the penny will continue to enhance safety with \$56 million allocated over 11 years for the purchase of additional replacement vehicles, the construction of a training center, and improved sheriff's facilities. Your penny at work helps the Escambia County Sheriff's Office keep you and their deputies safe on our streets.



*New deputies' cruisers are just one example of how your penny is at work making Escambia County safer.*

### QUICK FACTS

#### *Did you know...*

- All cruisers are purchased with a "police package" which includes pursuit tires, spotlight setup at the factory and a heavy suspension.
- A new car and the necessary law enforcement accessories cost approximately \$31,800 per cruiser.
- In order to decrease liability, tires, brakes and suspension must all be routinely checked, replaced or repaired.
- When a car reaches 125,000 miles, the law enforcement equipment is stripped and the vehicle is taken to auction. The funds raised at auction are used to purchase new equipment and cars.

*For more information on Escambia County's Local Option Sales Tax, please contact: the Escambia County Office of Public Information & Communications at (850)595-3476 or visit [www.myescambia.com](http://www.myescambia.com)*

