



# CASS COUNTY OFFICE OF SHERIFF

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**Joseph M. Underwood, Jr.**  
Sheriff

**Richard J. Behnke**  
Undersheriff

May 15, 2007

Magician Lake Improvement Association  
62480 Gilmore Avenue  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

Dear Board Members:

Due to budgetary shortfalls and continued rise in costs, I am writing this letter to inform you of the status of the Marine division for the summer of 2007. State funding is down forty-one percent (41%) for lake patrol operations this year, resulting in less hours being patrolled by the Cass County Sheriff's Office Marine Division. Therefore, we will not be able to maintain the level of commitment as in the past.

This year the Department of Natural Resources awarded only federal grants to the Cass County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office had budgeted \$66,140 to the Marine Division but was only awarded \$27,212 for patrol operations. With the increase costs of gasoline and inflation on the rise, this is going to be a hardship for the Marine Division. The Cass County Sheriff's Office is striving to keep it's level of commitment to the citizens of Cass County, but some of the patrol based operation will be decreased.

If you would like to contract a particular number of hours for patrol on your lake in addition to the minimum hours we will be able to provide, please contact Sgt. Phil Esarey at 269-445-1225.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Underwood, Jr.  
Sheriff

JMU/dd

*The Cass County Sheriff's Office, recognizing its commitment of service to all citizens, will provide professional law enforcement and crime prevention in accordance with the highest possible standards of integrity and fairness.*