



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: District Attorney
Department No.: 021
For Agenda Of: June 23, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department: Joyce Dudley, District Attorney, x2308
Contact Info: Kerry Bierman, Director of Administration, x2304

SUBJECT: Contract for Victim Advocate in Human Trafficking Advocacy Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Human Resources, Risk

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Professional Services Contract with Biannet Vargas as Victim Witness Program Advocate for Human Trafficking Advocacy Program, for the period of June 23, 2015 through June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$ 40,000.00; and
- b) Determine that the above action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), because it consists of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

The Office of the District Attorney is collaborating with law enforcement partners and local community groups on eradicating Human Trafficking in Santa Barbara County, a crime that is often misunderstood and under-reported. In April 2015, the department was awarded a grant from the California Office of Emergency Services to support Human Trafficking victims and engage in efforts to educate law enforcement in detecting Human Trafficking in Santa Barbara County. These funds will support a Victim Witness Program Advocate within the Human Trafficking Advocacy Program.

Background:

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery whose victims include not only the sexually exploited, but also those who are forced to provide labor by means of force, fraud or coercion. California is ranked as one of the top four U.S. human trafficking destinations. Our central coast has been identified as a natural transit corridor for trafficking activity between major metropolitan areas to the south and north. As a tourist attraction with conference venues, a transitory population and migrant labor, Santa Barbara is vulnerable to trafficking activity.

It is estimated that 55% of forced labor victims and 98% of sexually exploited victims of human trafficking are young girls and women. These victims are stripped of their freedom and are frequently isolated and without social and family support. They are unsure of where to turn for assistance, and are often too intimidated to ask for help. In response to this alarming trend, the Santa Barbara County Office of the District Attorney formed a Human Trafficking Task Force to assess the scope of the local problem, offer access to training opportunities, develop protocols, and improve law enforcement and victim service response. Local and regional trainings have begun a paradigm shift, and law enforcement is more readily viewing sexually exploited minors as victims rather than prostitution offenders. The task force is comprised of state and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as non-profit and faith-based organizations. Given the intense nature of the case management, it was critical to obtain funding for a Victim Advocate who will assist in collaborative efforts with law enforcement agencies, and provide crisis intervention to victims of crime as well as resource and referral assistance based on specific needs.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -

Contract expenses for a .5 Victim Advocate position of \$40,000 in salary and benefit costs, including retirement and FICA. The Victim Advocate position is fully funded by grant funds from California Office of Emergency Services.

Key Contract Risks:

This is the District Attorney’s initial award on Human Trafficking from the California Office of Emergency Services. There is minimal risk to the County.

Staffing Impacts:

1 Contractor on

Payroll

Special Instructions:

Please return 1 fully executed copy of the contract to Kerry Bierman, DA Director of Administration

Attachments:

- a) Contract between County of Santa Barbara and Ms. Biannet Vargas

Authored by:

Kerry Bierman, DA Director of Administration

cc: Human Resources