



**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: August 19, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Joyce E. Dudley (805) 568-2308
Contact Info: Megan Rheinschild (805) 568-2408
SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the District Attorney to Renew Agreement with State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to Provide Emergency Funds for Crime Victims through June 30, 2017.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to extend an Agreement with the State Victim Compensation & Government Claims Board that provides expedited payment of funeral/burial expenses, crime scene clean-up and emergency domestic violence and sexual assault relocation expenses, effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.

Summary Text:

Through this agreement, the Victim Witness Assistance Program Claims Staff process eligible claims and authorize immediate payment of approved victim's funeral and burial expenses, crime scene clean-up, domestic violence, or sexual assault relocation expenses. Claims are paid from the local Trust Account directly to the service provider and/or the victim. Staff then processes claims with VCGCB to replenish the revolving Trust Account. Claims are evaluated per Statutes and Regulations not to exceed the amounts authorized in State Statute. During the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, a total of \$43,666 in relocation awards and a total of \$39,287 in funeral burial expenses were paid to victims of violent crime. This program is a critical service to victims in crisis and is recommended for continuation.

Background:

Since Fiscal Year 1987 - 1988, the Office of the District Attorney has contracted with the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB) to verify claims for victims of crime to obtain reimbursement for losses suffered as a result of a serious crime. Effective January 1999, the State VCGCB established an agreement with Santa Barbara County which enabled the Office of the District Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Program to provide immediate payment of a victim's funeral/burial expense through a County Trust Account. This has alleviated the family's financial stress often created by the sudden death of a loved one, when providers are unable to wait for bill payment until Victim Compensation Program reimbursement claims are paid. Effective July 2000 and 2002, the program was legislated to provide domestic violence victims with emergency funds for relocation expenses and later expanded to reimburse victims for crime scene clean up and emergency relocation expenses emanating from a sexual assault respectively.

Performance Measure:

Process Victims' Claims for emergency funeral/burial and relocation through the County Auditor's office within 72 hours from the time of victim's request.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agreement, as the Trust Account is replenished as expenses are paid.

Special Instructions:

Please return executed copy of Resolution to Jo Ann Slattery, DA Business Manager

Attachments:

Resolution

Authored by:

Megan Rheinschild, DA Victim-Witness Program Director