



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: July 12, 2011
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: Kimbra McCarthy, DA Director of Administration, x2304

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolutions Authorizing the District Attorney to renew Agreements with the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board for two year extensions of the Victim Claims Verification Services and the Restitution and Recovery Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the State Victim Compensation & Government Claims Board, hereafter VCGCB, to extend Victim Claims Verification Services effective July 1, 2011 though June 30, 2012, for a total of \$232,064; and
- b) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to extend an Agreement with the VCGCB that provides expedited payment of funeral/burial expenses, crime scene clean-up and emergency relocation expenses, effective July 1, 2011 though June 30, 2014.

Summary Text:

Since FY 87-88, the District Attorney has contracted with the VCGCB to verify claims for victims of crime to obtain reimbursement for losses suffered as a result of a serious crime. Victims Compensation Claims Specialists, housed in the North and South County offices, determine whether applicants meet State eligibility requirements for the Victims of Crime Program and then verify that the claims filed include all necessary documentation regarding the crime and determine that the services are crime related. The Claims Specialists also recommend award or denial of Victim Compensation Claims directly to the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, expediting the process for payment of victim claims. In the FY 09/10 a total of 952 victim claims were verified and submitted, returning \$1,347,096 in reimbursement to victims, medical, mental health and other service providers.

Effective January 1999, the State VCGCB established an agreement with Santa Barbara County which enabled 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 relative, when providers are unable to wait for payment of a victim's bills until Victim Compensation Program reimbursement claims are paid. Effective July 2000, this effort was expanded to provide domestic violence victims with emergency funds for relocation expenses, consistent with passage of AB 606. With the passage of AB 1019 effective January 2002, the County was given additional authority to reimburse eligible crime victims for crime scene clean up and emergency relocation expenses emanating from a sexual assault. 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 from the local Trust Account directly to the service provider and/or the victim. Victims of Crime Compensation Claims staff process claims with VCGCB to replenish the revolving Trust Account. Claims are evaluated per Statutes and Regulations and claims do not exceed the amounts authorized in State Statute. During the period of July 1, 2010 to present there have been 2 funeral/burial awards paid out using Emergency County Revolving Fund totaling \$12,089 and 8 Emergency relocation awards for a total of \$ 13,634. This program is a critical service to victims in crisis and is recommended for continuation.

These long term agreements with the VCGCB enhance services provided to victims of violent crime by the District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program. The VCGCB Claims Verification process enables victims to obtain financial recovery of losses experienced as a result of a violent crime, from the State Victim Restitution Fund.

Performance Measure:

Verify and process Victim Compensation claims and bills for State reimbursement of financial losses within 90 days of receiving claim to expedite reimbursement to victims and providers.

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:

Revenues and appropriations are included in current and future budgets.

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	\$ 232,064.00	\$ 232,064.00	
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 232,064.00	\$ 232,064.00	\$ -

The FY 11-12 Victim Compensation Claims Verification Program Agreement totals \$232,064 to reimburse program expenditures, providing \$220,585 annually to finance two Claims Specialists and .05 Victim/Witness Program Manager oversight, along with \$11,479 in operating costs and overhead costs. Program expenses and revenue have been budgeted in the FY 11-12 budget.

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

Staffing Impacts:

Two VVC Claims Technicians, and .05 FTE Victim/Witness Program Manager for program oversight are currently budgeted.

Special Instructions:

Please return executed copy of resolution to Kimbra McCarthy, DA Administrative Director

Attachments: Board Resolution

Authored by: Megan Rheinschild, District Attorney Victim-Witness Assistance Program Manager