



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:** November 7, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney (805) 568-2308  
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer  
(805) 568-2303  
**SUBJECT:** Release of Fiscal Year 2023-24 Set-Aside Funds to the District Attorney for a Parole Hearings Deputy District Attorney Position; Salary Resolution Amendment

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management, Human Resources, CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution (Attachment A) amending the Salary Resolution to allocate one (1) additional full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to the Office of the District Attorney, effective November 13, 2023;
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0009394 (Attachment B) to increase appropriations of \$90,300 in General County Programs General Fund for Intrafund Expenditure Transfers funded by release of Unassigned Fund Balance, and increase appropriations of \$90,300 in the District Attorney General Fund for Salary & Benefits (\$90,300), funded by Intergovernmental Revenue – State Proposition 172 funds; and
- c) Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities or funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

During the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Hearings, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a set-aside of Proposition 172 funding in the amount of \$156,600 to fund a Deputy District Attorney (DDA) position within the Santa Barbara County District Attorney’s Office (SBDA) to oversee the increase in parole hearings. The BOS directed the CEO’s Office to evaluate the need for this position against competing priorities in the criminal justice system and to seek other funding opportunities prior to releasing the Proposition 172 funds. Following these actions and discussions between the CEO’s Office and the District Attorney’s Office, the above-referenced item is on the agenda to request the release of set-aside funds to the District Attorney’s Office to fund the Parole Hearings position through the adoption of the attached Salary Resolution amendment and Budget Revision Request.

**Background:**

SBDA plays a critical role in the local criminal justice system by helping to ensure public safety, upholding the law, and prosecuting offenders. One of SBDA’s key responsibilities is handling parole hearings, which involve cases in which individuals have been sentenced to prison. Over time, there has been a significant increase in the number of individuals eligible for parole hearings, thereby necessitating the need for an additional 1.0 FTE DDA to effectively manage and expedite this process.

Recent legislative changes have greatly increased the number of incarcerated individuals now presumptively eligible for early release on parole. For example, in 2020, Penal Code section 3055 lowered the age of "Elderly" parole eligibility from 60 years old to 50 years old, making these individuals eligible for parole sometimes decades earlier than previously sentenced. Other modifications include "Youth Offender" parole eligibility shortening the time in which incarcerated individuals are parole eligible if they were under the age of 26 when they committed their crime(s). Finally, Proposition 57 re-characterized certain crimes, resulting in an increased number of incarcerated individuals who had previously been sentenced to life in prison who are eligible for parole hearings.

This position will ensure that a dedicated DDA is assigned to these cases. This will improve SBDA's ability to advocate for public safety, impacted victims, and deceased victims’ next-of-kin (VNOK). SBDA participation will also help promote increased victim participation and engagement in parole hearings, as the dedicated DDA will assist victims in navigating the procedural hurdles that are required in order to provide statements to the Parole Board. In addition, having a dedicated DDA assigned to these cases will ensure that SBDA is able to advocate for an incarcerated individual’s release in cases where rehabilitation has been achieved, and provide continuity for victims and other interested parties.

**Performance Measures:**

SBDA has worked closely with the County Executive Office to develop meaningful performance metrics and identify the following data points for the Parole Hearing DDA position, and will work to build in the data for the below Objectives, to have available to track effective January 1, 2024.

**Baseline Data:**

The table below lists the number of parole hearing cases over the last five (5) years. From 2018 to 2022, the number of parole hearings increased from 34 to 66; this represents a 94% increase. This significant increase has primarily been covered by Extra-Help DDAs. However, due to the volume, a dedicated position focused on this area is critical to SBDA’s ability to effectively manage and expedite the parole hearing process.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Parole Hearings</b>
2018	34
2019	45
2020	56
2021	80
2022	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>

Goals and Objectives:

<b>(1) Goal</b>	<b>Help to ensure public safety for the citizens of Santa Barbara County and provide continuity to the People’s representation at parole hearings.</b>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Track the number of parole hearings attended (target: 100%).</li> <li>2. Track the District Attorney’s recommendations to the Parole Board and the outcome of each parole hearing.</li> <li>3. Track defendant information including name, charges, date of parole hearing, number, and hearing type.</li> <li>4. Track the amount of time it takes to complete one parole hearing from beginning to end.</li> </ol>
<b>(2) Goal</b>	<b>Represent victims’ interests and provide victim outreach and advocacy to assist victims and VNOKs with navigating the criminal justice system post-sentencing.</b>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attempt contact with 100% of victims and/or VNOKs.</li> <li>2. Successfully contact, advise and update at least 80% of surviving victims prior to a scheduled parole hearing.</li> </ol>

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No. Recommend approval of BJE No. 00099394 attached.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Current FY Cost:</b>	<b>Annual Ongoing Cost:</b>
General Fund	\$ -	\$ -
State		
Federal		
Fees		
Prop 172	\$ 90,300.00	\$ 156,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 90,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 156,600.00</b>

The District Attorney’s Office is requesting to add 1.0 FTE additional Deputy District Attorney position at a total cost of approximately \$164,900. Funding for the position will primarily come from the \$156,600 set-aside of ongoing Proposition 172 funding, with the remaining balance of \$8,300 funded through

ongoing departmental salary savings. \$90,300 will cover the cost of the position over the remainder of FY 2023-24.

**Staffing Impacts:**

<b>Legal Positions:</b>	<b>FTEs:</b>
Add 1.0 new	Add 1.0

Adoption of the attached Salary Resolution will allocate the following one (1) additional legal position to the District Attorney's Office:

- One (1) 1.0 FTE Deputy District Attorney I/II/III/IV/SR

**Special Instructions:**

- a) Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:
  - a. One (1) Minute Order
- b) Please email the following items to Tracy Rogers, Workforce Planning Analyst, Human Resources Department at [trogers@countyofsb.org](mailto:trogers@countyofsb.org):
  - a. One (1) Minute Order
  - b. One (1) copy of the fully-executed Salary Resolution

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Salary Resolution

Attachment B: Budget Revision Request No. 0009394

**Authored by:**

John DeAlba, Department Business Specialist; (805) 568-2434