

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

**Agenda Number:**

**Prepared on:** 5/10/04  
**Department:** District Attorney  
**Budget Unit:** 021  
**Agenda Date:** 5/25/04  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Thomas W. Sneddon, Jr.  
District Attorney

**STAFF CONTACT:** Marnie B. Pinsker  
District Attorney Assistant Director, x2304

**SUBJECT:** Renewal of Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board Contract for Victim Claims Verification Services

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to continue victim of crime claims verification services.
- b) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to extend its Agreement with the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to provide expedited payment of funeral/burial expenses, crime scene clean up and emergency domestic violence and/or sexual assault relocation expenses.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit and business necessity.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Since FY 87-88, the District Attorney has contracted with the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to verify claims for victims of crime to obtain reimbursement for losses suffered as a result of a serious crime. Victim 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 the services provided. In the fiscal year 2002/03 a total of 841 victim compensation claims were processed, resulting in payments and reimbursements totaling \$1,105,809 made to victims and their family members, medical and dental providers, mental health professionals, funeral/burial and other victim service providers.

In 1999 the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board established a mechanism for immediate payment to victims for emergency funeral/burial expenses through a locally established county Trust Account funded by the Victim Compensation Board. These same benefits were later extended to include victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and homicide survivors claiming crime scene clean up expenses. This mechanism alleviates some of the financial stress often created by the sudden death of a relative, when providers are unable to wait for payment of victim's bills until Victim Compensation reimbursement claims are paid. In addition, it enables adult victims to claim reimbursement of eligible relocation expenses to avoid further abuse and intimidation by a sexual assault or domestic violence perpetrator. Based on State regulations the Victim Compensation Board has authorized the local Victim Witness Assistance Program to pay up to \$2,000 in verified victim relocation expenses, \$5000 in funeral/burial and \$1,000 in crime scene clean up expenses.

Through the continuation of this agreement, the Victim Compensation claims staff is authorized to expedite payment of verified expenses directly to the service provider and/or the victim. As claims are submitted and approved for payment, reimbursements from the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Program are deposited into a trust account thereby maintaining its solvency throughout the contract duration.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The current service level is retained.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The FY 04-05 contract agreement allocates \$201,827 to fully reimburse program expenditures, including financing for two Claims Specialists, .75/FTE clerical positions, and .20 of the Victim Witness Assistance Program Manager salary to oversee program operations, along with the associated operating costs related to the Program. Revenue has been budgeted in the FY 04-05 budget and will be deposited in account 4339.

The Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board allocated \$50,000 to Santa Barbara County, held in a Trust Account to finance immediate payment of verified claims. As funds are utilized, claims are submitted to the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board for reimbursement to the Trust Account.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return an executed agreement to Marnie Pinsker, x2304.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE )  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO CONTRACT ) RESOLUTION NO. 2004-  
WITH THE STATE VICTIM COMPENSATION )  
& GOVERNMENT CLAIMS BOARD )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

WHEREAS, Government Code 13959 et seq. authorizes the State Victim Compensation & Government Claims Board to provide compensation to victims of crime for the financial losses they experience as victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has designated the District Attorney's Victim Witness Program a provider of major and comprehensive victim and witness services in Santa Barbara County;

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office has the desire and capability to continue providing claims verification and eligibility determination; and

WHEREAS, the State Victim Compensation & Government Claims Board is authorized to contract with local Victim Witness Centers to provide claims verification and eligibility determination for expedited payments of funeral burial expenses, crime scene clean-up and emergency domestic violence and sexual assault relocation expenses, and to make \$50,000 available for this purpose.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors authorizes the District Attorney to enter into agreement with the State Victim Compensation & Government Claims Board to provide expedient financial assistance to victims of crime and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State funds received hereunder shall only be disbursed with strict adherence to State guidelines and regulations.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004, by the following votes:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form  
Auditor-Controller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form  
County Counsel

ATTEST:  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING A JOINT )  
POWERS AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE FOR ) RESOLUTION NO. 2004-  
VVC CLAIMS VERIFICATION )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

WHEREAS, Government Code 13959 et seq. authorizes the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to provide compensation to victims of crime for the financial losses they experience as victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has designated the District Attorney's Victim Witness Program a provider of major and comprehensive victim and witness services in Santa Barbara County; and,

WHEREAS, the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board is authorized to contract with the local Victim Witness Program to provide claims verification services; and,

WHEREAS, the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board has allocated \$201,827 for fiscal year 2004-05 to provide this specific task; and,

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office has the desire and capability to continue providing claims verification services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District Attorney is authorized, on its behalf, to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to provide claims verification services, effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 and is further authorized to sign for the purposes of making any extension or amendment thereof;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State funds received hereunder shall not be used to supplant local funds that would, in the absence of the California Victim Witness Assistance Program, be made available to support assistance to the victims of crime.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004, by the following votes:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form  
Auditor-Controller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form  
County Counsel

ATTEST:  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy