



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: December 2, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Joyce Dudley, District Attorney, 568-2308
Head:
Contact Info: Kerry Bierman, DA Director of Administration, 568-2304

SUBJECT: Agreement with the California Department of Insurance for an Automobile Insurance Fraud Prosecution Unit in the District Attorney's Office

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the District Attorney to enter into an agreement with the California Department of Insurance for an Automobile Insurance Fraud Prosecution Unit in FY 2014-15.

Summary Text:

The Automobile Insurance Fraud program is designed to prosecute automobile insurance fraud cases which are investigated by various law enforcement agencies. Board approval is required to receive grant revenue for this program in FY 2014-15.

Background:

False insurance claims are a serious problem across the United States. The latest data from the California Department of Insurance indicates that automobile insurance fraud is on the rise in Santa Barbara County. There is a direct correlation between automobile insurance fraud and increases in insurance premiums throughout the industry. These factors led the Santa Barbara County District Attorney to develop the Automobile Insurance Fraud program, which brings together local businesses, the California Department of Insurance, and the District Attorney to tackle Automobile Insurance Fraud in Santa Barbara County.

The Automobile Insurance Fraud program is financed through fees assessed by the State Insurance Commissioner as part of the automobile insurance rates. The long term goal of this initiative is to reduce automobile insurance fraud in Santa Barbara County through crime prevention and deterrence, to be accomplished through a combination of community education and criminal prosecution of fraud cases.

This is the first year of the program. Already the Automobile Insurance Fraud unit has filed felony complaints on five suspects.

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	\$ 83,906.00	\$ 83,906.00	
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 83,906.00	\$ 83,906.00	\$ -

One full-time Deputy District Attorney (Contractor on Payroll) will report to a lead, part-time Deputy District Attorney. Their efforts will be countywide. The current fiscal year revenue includes the FY14-15 allocation of \$83,906. This includes \$75,089 in salary and benefit costs, \$1,808 in operating costs and \$7,009 in overhead associated with the program. This is the initial year of funding for this program.

Staffing Impacts:

<u>Legal Positions:</u>	<u>FTEs:</u>
Deputy DA, (Contractor on Payroll)	1.00
Deputy DA	.05

Special Instructions: Please return executed Resolution to Jo Ann Slattery, DA Business Manager

Attachments: Board Resolution

Authored by: Jo Ann Slattery, DA Business Manager