



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: June 4, 2019

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Authorizing Sonoma County Welfare Fraud Investigators to Carry Firearms On Duty

Whereas, Welfare Fraud Investigators were once authorized, by formal action of the Board of Supervisors, to carry firearms on while on duty pursuant to Resolution No. 31587 adopted on December 22, 1970, and continued through Resolution Number 36402 after certain Penal Code changes were made; and

Whereas, that authority to carry firearms on duty continued to exist until the authorization was withdrawn by the Board of Supervisors in 1988, through adoption of Resolution Number 88-2268, which rescinded Resolution No. 31587, effective January 23, 1989; and

Whereas, Welfare Fraud Investigators in the Human Services Department are now facing increased threats of violence related to the termination or reduction of public assistance benefits. With the passage of AB109 (realignment), which diverts people convicted of certain classes of felonies to the County jail, caseloads of public assistance benefits have increased; and

Whereas, California Penal Code section 830.35 provides that Welfare Fraud Investigators, whose primary duties are to enforce the provisions of the Welfare and Institutions Code, may be approved to carry firearms if authorized under the terms and conditions of their employing agency; and

Whereas, in order to address these changed circumstances and increased risks,

adoption of a new Resolution authorizing Welfare Fraud Investigators to carry firearms while on duty for defensive purposes is recommended, along with the development of policies and procedures , completion of the meet and confer process with the affected labor groups, and revision of the job specifications for each class affected;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors finds, declares and determines that the foregoing recitals are true and correct; and

Be It Further Resolved that effective upon the completion of the meet and confer process with the affected labor groups, pursuant to the authority of California Penal Code section 830.35, Welfare Fraud Investigators are authorized to carry firearms on duty for defensive purposes.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Zane: Gore: Hopkins: Rabbitt:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.