



Legislation Text

File #: 2021-0997, **Version:** 1

To: Board of Supervisors

Department or Agency Name(s): District Attorney's Office

Staff Name and Phone Number: Jill Ravitch 565-3068, Shane Lewis 565-3150

Vote Requirement: 4/5th

Supervisorial District(s): Countywide

Title:

Addition of One Full-Time Victim Witness Advocate II for the District Attorney's Victim Services Division.

Recommended Action:

- A) Adopt a resolution amending the Department Allocation list adding a 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Witness Advocate I/II, with funding provided by the Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership via California Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109).
- B) Adopt a resolution adjusting the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Adopted Budgets for the District Attorney's Office to add expenditure appropriations for the new 1.0 FTE Victim Witness Advocate, and the associated reimbursement from the Community Corrections Partnership Fund.

(4/5th Vote Required)

Executive Summary:

This item requests authorization to add one full-time Victim Witness Advocate I/II to support victims of crime perpetrated by those released as a result of California Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109) and provide additional support to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes. The Victim Witness Advocate will help ensure that the victim has information and support throughout the criminal justice process. This position will be funded by the Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) via California Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109). The CCP approved this funding request on August 30, 2021. The funding will be requested by the department on an annual basis through the Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership.

Discussion:

The District Attorney's Office proposes the addition of one full-time Victim Witness Advocate I/II to ensure that the victims of crime, perpetrated by those that are released as a result of California Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109), have the appropriate resources and support mandated by Marsy's Law (Victim's Bill of Rights as described in the California Constitution). The Victim Advocate I/II will provide support to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes and is an important part of making sure that victims' voices are heard and they are connected to adequate services available to them including assistance with Victim Compensation Board applications, support with civil and criminal restraining orders, establishing a safe shelter situation, and are made aware of Marsy's Law protections. Victim Advocates provide mandated and optional services and will be funded by the Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership via California Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109). The funding will be requested by the department on an annual basis through the Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership as part of their budgetary

approval process.

Prior Board Actions:

N/A

FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenditures	FY 21-22 Adopted	FY22-23 Projected	FY 23-24 Projected
Budgeted Expenses		\$152,717	\$152,717
Additional Appropriation Requested	\$118,038		
Total Expenditures	\$118,038	\$152,717	\$152,717
Funding Sources			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal	\$118,038	\$152,717	\$152,717
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources	\$118,038	\$152,717	\$152,717

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

The Victim Witness Advocate I/II salary/benefits and internal service costs for FY 21/22 is \$114,538 (75% of the year, annualized at \$152,717) and one-time costs of \$3,500 for computer equipment and related software. The funding will be provided Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership via California Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109). The funding will be requested by the department on an annual basis through the Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership.

Staffing Impacts:			
Position Title (Payroll Classification)	Monthly Salary Range (A-I Step)	Additions (Number)	Deletions (Number)
Victim Witness Advocate II	\$5,002.13-\$6,082.22	1.0	

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

The Victim Witness Advocate I/II will provide comprehensive support and timely outreach to victims of crime while relieving the increased workload of our existing Victim Witness Advocates resulting from Marsy’s Law and California Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109).

Attachments:

1. Position Resolution
2. Budget Resolution

Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:

n/a