



County of Santa Cruz

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 200, PO BOX 1159, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
 (631) 454-2400 FAX: (631) 454-2227 E-MAIL: dat015@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

May 11, 2000

BOARD AGENDA: May 23, 2000

The Honorable Mardi Wormhoudt, Chairperson
 and Members of the Board of Supervisors
 Governmental Center
 701 Ocean Street, Room 500
 Santa Cruz, California 95060

RE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VERTICAL PROSECUTION GRANT

Dear Chairperson Wormhoudt and Members of the Board:

The Office of the District Attorney is currently in the process of re-applying to the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) for fiscal year 2000-2001 funding for our Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution (VAWA) Program. As part of the re-application process, we are requesting your Board to adopt a Resolution ratifying our grant application.

Funding for the program is made available under the Federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, signed into law by President Clinton on September 14, 1994. The President's action amended the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and created the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), title IV, section 40121. The purpose of the grant is to assist state and local governments in developing and strengthening effective law enforcement strategies to combat violent crimes against women.

This office's existing project is designed to impact the problem of violence against women through a specialized Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Unit within the Sexual Assault Team in our office. The unit consists of a full-time vertical prosecutor and a part time

□ WATSONVILLE OFFICE
 PO BOX 228
 FREEDOM, CA 95019

 1430 FREEDOM BLVD.
 WATSONVILLE, CA 95076
 (831) 763-8120
 (831) 763-8029 FAX

□ FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION
 PO BOX 1841
 420 MAY AVENUE
 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
 (831) 454-3700
 (831) 454-3752 FAX

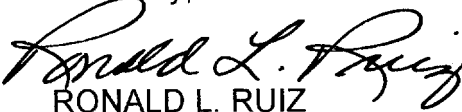
□ PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
 PO BOX 1159
 420 MAY AVENUE
 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
 (831) 454-2442
 (831) 454-3752 FAX

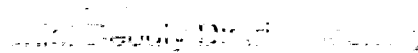
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THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to reapply to the Office of Criminal Justice Planning for fiscal year 2000-2001 for Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution funds.

Sincerely,


RONALD L. RUIZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

investigator (County match) working in conjunction with victim advocates from our Victim/Witness Assistance Center. The project prosecutor and investigator handle a reduced caseload of adult sexual assault cases. The unit also provides specialized resources to more effectively combat the incidence of physical and sexual abuse of elderly women in Santa Cruz County. Sexual assaults, including forcible rape by strangers, "date" rape, sodomy, oral copulation, penetration by foreign objects and a range of related offenses, are among the most vicious and damaging crimes in our community. Nearly 100 such cases are referred to us each year.

The physical and/or sexual abuse of elders (who comprise over 14% of the county's population) is similarly abhorrent. Most of these cases involve female victims over age 65 who are physically and/or mentally impaired, socially isolated, frail, sickly, and dependent on the individuals who are abusing them. The abusers are often relatives who are heavily drug or alcohol-involved and, in many cases, who depend upon the resources of their victims for financial support.

The District Attorney's Office is eligible to receive a total grant of \$138,416 of which \$34,604 is the local match and \$103,812 is the State allocation from OCJP to administer a VAWA Program in Santa Cruz County during fiscal year 2000-2001. District Attorney's Office has been a recipient of these funds over the past three year grant cycle in the amount of \$418,563. Currently this program assists in the funding one full time Assistant District Attorney and approximately one-half of a District Attorney Inspector position to investigate and vertically prosecute violent offenses against women in our community.

A copy of our grant application is on file for your review with the Clerk of the Board. We are requesting your Board to adopt the attached Resolution ratifying our grant application as submitted. We will continue to notify your Board of any changes to the fiscal year 2000-2001 VAWA grant application in accordance with applicable County procedures.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 0088
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO.

On the motion of Supervisor
duly seconded by Supervisor
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDS DURING GRANT YEAR
MARCH 1, 2000 - FEBRUARY 28, 2001 FOR A VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VERTICAL PROSECUTION
PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County desires to undertake a certain
project designated the Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Program, to be
funded in part from funds made available through the Violence Against Women Vertical
Prosecution Program administered by the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (hereafter
referred to as OCJP).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLVES AND ORDERS that the District
Attorney of the County of Santa Cruz is authorized, on its behalf to submit an
application for state funds for a Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Program
to the Office of Criminal Justice Planning and is authorized to execute on behalf of
the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County the attached Grant Award Agreement,
including any extensions or amendments thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that grant funds received hereunder shall not be used to
supplant expenditures controlled by this body;

IT IS AGREED that any liability arising out of the performance of this Grant Award
Agreement, including civil court actions for damages, shall be the responsibility of
the grant recipient and the authorizing agency. The State of California and OCJP
disclaim responsibility for any such liability.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State
of California, this _____ day of _____ 2000, by the following vote:

VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

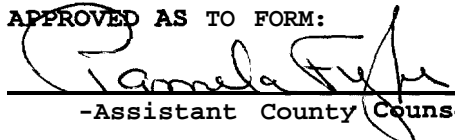
ABSENT :

ABSTAIN:

MARDI WORMHOUDT
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

ATTEST : _____
Clerk of Said Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



-Assistant County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION: District Attorney
County Counsel
Auditor, C.A.O.