

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Julie Roybal, Program Coordinator

DATED: May 18, 2016

RE: Request approval to submit a grant application for
Continuation of funding of the San Benito County
Victim/Witness Assistance Center

SUMMARY:

The District Attorney's Office is requesting Board approval to submit a grant application to the California Governor's Office of Emergency, ("Cal OES") for funding for The San Benito County Victim/Witness Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Cal OES is currently proposing to restore funding to \$152,869.

This funding source, along with a portion of the Marriage License fees collected by the County and designated to be used for services to victims of domestic violence will allow the District Attorney's office to maintain one full-time staff position and one part-time position to provide services to crime victims and their family members, pursuant to California Penal Code 18335.2, et seq., and the Guidelines issued by Cal OES.

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- (1) Review the proposed application for funding;
- (2) Adopt the proposed Resolution and authorize the
Chair of the Board to sign same.

DISCUSSION:

Program statistics, which are required by and reported to Cal OES, indicate that each year our Victim/Witness staff has been providing direct services to 500 new victims and their immediate family members. These services help reduce the resulting trauma from the crime itself, and the continuing trauma of proceeding through the criminal justice system. Law enforcement personnel and other criminal justice agencies do not have the time or manpower (1) to assist a victim facing the aftermath of a crime; (2) to guide the victim through the criminal justice system; and (3) to assist that victim in locating any special services he might require in order to recover from the crime.

No other agency within the county is equipped to provide these needed services to all crime victims (and not just to victims of a particular type of crime). The Victim/Witness Assistance Center is specifically designed to meet these on-going needs of crime victims and their family members.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There is no direct cost to the County's General Fund to maintain this program. The allocated funding for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 should maintain the center for another one-year period.