



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR LICCARDO

**FROM:** Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

**SUBJECT: BUDGET DOCUMENT**

**DATE:** May 22, 2019

Approved

Date

5/22/2019

## RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendation be enacted.

### Proposal

Program/Project Title: Sexual Assaults System Improvements Budget Reserve

Amount of City Funding Required: \$500,000

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General Fund

This change is:

One-time       Ongoing

Proposal Description, including anticipated outcomes (Please describe how change would affect services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc.):

On April 15, 2019, San Jose City Council’s PSFSS Committee joined the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Committee on Children, Seniors, and Families to discuss Sexual Assaults and the intersecting violent crimes of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking. An outcome of that meeting was initial steps to system improvements. Both councilmembers and supervisors discussed requesting budget reserves to create the ability to put funding towards joint efforts to address these issues.

We need a reserve that would be sufficient to address some of the systems improvements discussed including, specialized ongoing training for police staff, examining patterns of sexual abuse, best practices in response and treatment, and promising prevention strategies. To respond appropriately to survivors of abuse we must begin with trauma informed interactions, beginning from the police officer responding to the call to the forensic interviewer. The number of systems involved to support survivors are many and this can be overwhelming. One solution is to have an advocacy resource center in which forensic interviews, police reports and mental health support services can take place.

In the last 10 years, the number of rapes reported in San Jose has almost tripled, while the increase in total violent crime has barely gone beyond a 20% increase. When you exclude rapes from total

violent crime, in the same 10-year period in which rapes have doubled, violent crime has only gone up by 11%. Therefore, reported rapes account for half of the entire increase in violent crime in San Jose from 2008 to 2018. The number of clearance rates for sexual assaults has a rate of 6.7% for 2018-2019 which is a lower clearance rate from 2017-2018 of 12.5%. We must find the most efficient strategy to increase the clearance rate; including hiring staff that reflects ethnic and language capacity of survivors as well as an overall increase of staff in those police units.



In response to our request, PD replied:

*In order to develop a sustainable program, the Police Department would work with the County to develop an advocacy resource center, with a similar structure and funding strategy as the current Children's Interview Center, which is a joint City/County program where the City, District Attorney's Office and Children & Family Services each pays 1/3 of the cost.*

*The amount in the Reserve would provide funding to manage the center; work with the County to provide resources, advocacy services, and treatment, as necessary; and to develop education, training and prevention strategies.*

Police Chief Garcia committed in the Budget Study Session on Public Safety to a Sexual Assaults Workplan Strategy to present to council this summer. The response from the SJPD to the budget cost estimate is to develop an advocacy center with similar structure and funding strategy as the current Children's Interview Center. The advocacy resource center is a much needed resource and will support survivors as well as assist in some prevention work.

The policy work that has come out of the Joint-City/County meetings gives us a path to move forward on joint policy improvements, which should use this reserve to implement. In a separate budget document, my office will request funding for the training needs that were identified in the Joint-City/County. The Police Department should work with the PSFSS Committee towards planning appropriations from this reserve fund.

**Funding Source**

Essential Services Reserve (\$4 million): \$500,000

Other (Program/Project/Fund):

**Department or Organization:**

Department or Organization Contact (list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation):

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