



CITY OF HAYWARD
AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE 10/10/00
AGENDA ITEM 2
WORK SESSION ITEM _____

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Update on The Domestic Violence-Prevention and Intervention Program

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council accept this report.

BACKGROUND:

In 1998 the Hayward Police Department received a grant award for \$131,522 from OCJP to establish a Domestic Violence Unit. It was recognized that domestic violence is a major concern in the City of Hayward as well as other cities throughout Alameda County. Special attention in the areas of investigation, prosecution, counseling, and support was needed. Strengthening our efforts to combat violent crimes against women was needed and a Domestic Violence Unit was established and made part of our Youth and Family Service Bureau. A full-time Investigator was assigned to the unit along with a half-time Domestic Violence Counselor. In addition, the Shelter Against Violent Environment (SAVE) supplied a full-time Advocate to assist domestic violence victims in the City of Hayward. The Police Department's multidisciplinary team approach is the most effective response to this tragic problem.

A full-time Domestic Violence Investigator is responsible to evaluate each reported incident and ensure that all investigating functions have been completed. The Investigator, Counselor and Advocate work together with reluctant victims to encourage more of them to come forward and, as a result, increase the number of cases prosecuted. The Investigator collaborates closely with the District Attorney's Office to maximize the number of prosecuted cases.

A Domestic Violence Counselor is a licensed therapist that specializes in the emotional support and the clinical treatment of victims of domestic violence. The goal of intervening at the psychological level is to assist a victim during crisis and to reduce the likelihood of future violence. The Counselor also generates greater victim cooperation with police and the District Attorney, resulting in more successful prosecutions. The Domestic Violence Counselor provides in-depth, professional counseling at no cost to victims. The Counselor aids the victim in working through the complex emotions of fear, guilt, anger, betrayal, confusion, and shame. As a member of the multidisciplinary team the Counselor will work with the Domestic Violence Investigator, Domestic Violence Advocate, and the District Attorney to meet the

victims emotional needs and to provide support to the victim throughout the investigation and prosecution of the abuser.

A Domestic Violence Advocate works on site at the Hayward Police Department; however, the Advocate is an employee of Shelter Against Violent Environments (SAVE). As part of the multidisciplinary team the Domestic Violence Advocate meets with victims and provides emotional support, safety planning, court and mediation accompaniment as well as resources and referrals.

IMPACT OF PROGRAM:

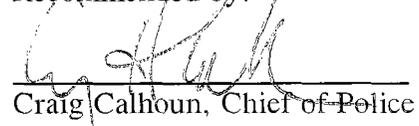
Arrests for domestic violence offenses have increased dramatically during the past three years. This increase is attributed to better training of Police Officers and better follow up by two full-time investigators. There were 542 arrests in FY 1998, 614 in FY 1999, and 789 in FY 2000. This is a 46 % increase over the base year. During the past two years 209 Police Officers have received IO hours of advanced training, although the State only requires two hours. This has raised awareness of domestic violence issues and created a consistent and uniform response to these complex incidents among the officers. Arrest warrants are more quickly served and Emergency Protective Orders for victims are used regularly. All Communication Operators are receiving training that will help them screen calls more effectively. The two Domestic Violence Investigators follow up on every serious incident and have an excellent working relationship with the District Attorney's office. Raving the Domestic Violence Unit as the point of contact for all cases has improved the prosecution rate and has reduced the pleading of cases to a lesser offense. In general, the Domestic Violence Unit has enhanced our level of service to the City of Hayward.

Prepared by:



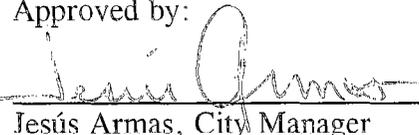
Manuel Silva, Investigations Division Commander

Recommended by:



Craig Calhoun, Chief of Police

Approved by:



Jesús Armas, City Manager