

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

188



FROM: DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SUBMITTAL DATE:
September 9, 2004

SUBJECT: APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE DEPT. OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REAL ESTATE DIVISION TO LOCATE AND LEASE SUITABLE OFFICE SPACE FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR A FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER IN THE DOWNTOWN RIVERSIDE AREA.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department of Facilities Management Real Estate Division to locate and lease up to 6,300 square feet of office space in the downtown Riverside area for a Family Justice Center for domestic violence victims.

BACKGROUND: Every seven seconds in the United States a woman is physically abused in her home. One quarter of all women will experience partner violence at some time in their life.

The Victim/Witness Assistance Division of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office provides support services to crime victims in Riverside County. Advocates work closely with the attorneys and investigators to minimize the impact of the criminal justice system upon the lives of victims, witnesses, and their families by helping them overcome the effects of crime and guiding them through the criminal justice process.

(See next page for continuation)

Grover Trask

Grover Trask
District Attorney

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	N/A	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	04/05

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Various District Attorney, DPSS and multi-agency in-kind funding.	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

Lisa Bravell

County Executive Office Signature

- Policy
- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Dept's Recomm.:
- Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** 2 | **Agenda Number:**

**ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD**

3 . 15

Reviewed by
Sandy M. Christman
CIP TEAM

Departmental Concurrence

The largest caseload within the Division, not surprisingly given the statistics, is domestic violence related cases. Law enforcement calls for assistance in these cases have increased 20% from 1999 to 2002 in Riverside County. The DA's Office in 2003 filed 4,896 domestic violence related cases. Community service providers Alternatives to Domestic Violence and Shelter From the Storm provided over 11,000 services to victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence knows no community or government boundaries. Everywhere it occurs it leaves destruction in its path with visible, and invisible, wounds inflicted upon our communities, dividing families, scarring children, and leaving governments with staggering costs for law enforcement, medical care, mental health costs, social services, and work related expenses.

Currently domestic violence victims seeking safety, justice, and legal assistance must locate any number of agencies to access the necessary and needed services. Victims often spend days, and sometimes weeks trying to obtain the necessary services. For many victims being sent from one agency to another is so over whelming they merely give up and return to an abusive relationship and/or do not receive the necessary services or intervention.

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with key partners, is proposing to establish three county-wide decentralized Family Justice Centers with convenient open door access for all victims of domestic violence and their children in order to reduce trauma, provide optimum community response, and to ultimately end domestic violence in Riverside County. These key partners include:

- Riverside Police Department
- Indio Police Department
- Riverside County Sheriff
- Department of Public Social Services
- Public Services Law Corporation
- Shelter from the Storm
- Alternatives to Domestic Violence
- Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center
- Probation Department
- SAFE
- Inland Counties Legal Services
- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians

The creation of the Centers in strategic locations (Indio, Murrieta, and Riverside), phased in over an 18-24 month period, will enhance current services and improve access to services for victims. The Centers will be operated by partnerships of multi-disciplinary agencies and non-profit organizations with each partner providing staff on-site to provide services in a safe, secure, and private environment. Services will include legal representation and assistance; victim/witness services; court accompaniment; crisis intervention; hospital accompaniment; assistance with emergency shelter and transitional housing; information and referral; and access to law enforcement and prosecutors.

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Telephone and data line communications will be needed. The Department of Information Services will estimate the costs.