

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



**FROM:** Supervisor Marion Ashley

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
04/05/05

**SUBJECT:** Purchase of Two Community Resource Vehicles, "Mobile Safe Haven"

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

That the Board of Supervisors approves the purchase of two Community Resource Vehicles to be placed at Perris Sheriff's Station and San Jacinto ARCNET narcotic task force.

**BACKGROUND:**

Innocent and victimized children often suffer compounded emotional trauma as a result of the circumstances involved when agencies respond to emergency incidents and investigations. Law enforcement began to notice that children were witnessing all aspects of their investigations (including searches, questioning and arrests). They also noticed that in some cases, the children were being detained in caged police cars or interviewed in the same residences where they had been abused, neglected or exposed to toxic drugs and/or chemicals. Law enforcement agencies do not currently have the ability to provide these innocent and victimized children with a mobile site where they can be temporarily placed out of view of the investigation.

*Marion Ashley*

Marion Ashley, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 30,000	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 30,000	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 20,000	For Fiscal Year:	FY 04/05
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> Promoting Safe and Stable Families, Federal augmentation – 100%				Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 <input type="checkbox"/>
				Requires 4/5 Vote <input type="checkbox"/>

Dep't Recomm.:  Policy  
Per Exec. Ofc.:  Policy  
  
 Consent  
 Consent

**Prev. Agn. Ref.:**

**District:** All

**Agenda Number:**

3.43

5002 WVB 31 VH 11:55

RECEIVED RIVERSIDE COUNTY

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**BACKGROUND (Cont.):**

These children need a place where they can be examined, screened and interviewed, and provided a much needed change of clothing, rest, nutrition, and a place where they can feel safe and secure.

In 2003, there were **400 children** who were affected by incidents and investigations involving drug labs who would have benefited by having the Mobile Safe Haven available to them. In 2004, the estimate is **over 500 children** who would have benefited by the Mobile Safe Haven Community Resource Vehicle. These estimates are for **drug labs alone**. Other uses of the vehicle will result in hundreds more children who need a safe haven during these long and emotional investigations in order to reduce their trauma.

Examples of situations where children need a safe haven include:

- Children exposed to physical, sexual and mental abuse
- Neglected children
- Children that become separated from their loved ones
- Traumatized children

In 1999 the Sheriff, District Attorney, DPSS, entered into a Memorandum Of Understanding for the Drug Endangered Children Project and the Clandestine Drug Lab Child Safety Agreement agreeing to support each other in investigative activities including funding for a Social Service Worker V position assigned to the Drug Endangered Children Project. Often, children must be jointly interviewed by Child Protective Services (CPS) and law enforcement which means the children cannot be taken away from the scene until this process concludes. The Community Resource Vehicle (CRV) is a mobile, child friendly, vehicle where these abused, neglected or lost children can be immediately provided with a safe and secure environment. Even in cases such as search warrants, parole violations, etc. where children may not be taken into CPS custody the CRV would provide a safe environment for the children to wait instead of viewing the events taking part in their home.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding between Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and the Department of Justice the CRVs will be placed in Perris and San Jacinto ARCNET narcotic task force. The Sheriff's Department and Department of Justice have volunteered to maintain the ongoing cost of these vehicles that would include routine maintenance, gasoline, clean up, and holding tank disposal, etc. They will also accept responsibility for the children and stay with them until Child Protective Services arrives on scene and takes custody of the children.

Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County will track the usage of the CRVs and report to the Board of Supervisors. Further CRV purchases will be made based on the statistical information from this report. Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County and the Board of Supervisors supports this program countywide.

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**FINANCIAL:**

The projected cost of one 25' CRV for Perris is \$32,400. This vehicle has been privately funded. However, with the availability of federal augmentation funds, the County of Riverside is able to pay for one-third of the cost of this vehicle on or before June 30, 2005. The remaining two-thirds cost will come from private funding.

The projected cost of the CRV for San Jacinto ARCNET narcotic task force is \$50,000 and one-third of the cost of this CRV can be paid on or before June 30, 2005 using one-time federal augmentation funds. The remaining two-thirds cost in years 2 and 3 will be in this order of availability:

1. Federal augmentation (one-third each year), and, if not available
2. Community Development Block Grant