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California Budget Allocates \$1 Million for GVRO Training

City Attorney Elliott's program educates Californians on lifesaving tool

The state budget signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom provides \$1 million for City Attorney Mara W. Elliott's program to train other law enforcement agencies on the use of Gun Violence Restraining Orders. The funding will allow Elliott's Gun Violence Response Unit, which has already trained more than 400 agencies throughout California, to continue its work into 2023.

In 2017, Elliott was the first public official in the state to launch a comprehensive GVRO program that uses California's "red flag" law to temporarily remove access to firearms from individuals who pose a serious risk of harm to themselves or others. Working with police and the courts, Elliott created a model GVRO program that can be replicated in other jurisdictions, and in 2018 the Legislature asked her office to train other jurisdictions.

Since the program's inception, the City Attorney's Office has intervened with a GVRO in more than 550 crisis situations and has removed more than 1,000 guns from individuals who presented a danger to themselves, their partners, their families, their co-workers, their classmates, or the general public.

"We appreciate the Governor's faith in our efforts to save lives by educating law enforcement agencies throughout California on how to use Gun Violence Restraining Orders," San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **"I also want to thank Assemblymember Phil Ting, our statewide partner on gun violence prevention, for requesting that substantial funding be allocated for this critical work."**

"These trainings by Mara Elliott's GVRO team are essential to saving lives and preventing tragedies. Numerous law enforcement agencies throughout California have already benefitted from their experience and additional state funding ensures these classes reach even more jurisdictions," Assemblymember Phil Ting, D-San Francisco, Chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee, said.

A [2020 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association](#) credited Elliott's efforts in San Diego for spurring a statewide uptick in the use of GVROs. The report concluded that Elliott's development of a GVRO team and law enforcement trainings could account for the disproportionate growth of GVRO use in San Diego and throughout Southern California.

Due to the program's success, the state has steadily increased funds for training. The state allocated \$50,000 in FY 2019, \$250,000 in FY 2020, and, after providing no funding in the pandemic-impacted FY 2021 budget, has now provided funding that allows the program to operate for the next three years.

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