

## TRAINING BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE

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### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFE HOTELS PROGRAM

**Portions of this document are deemed by the San Diego Police Department to be records of security procedures and are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (CPRA), Government Code Section 7923.600.**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information about the Domestic Violence Safe Hotels Program and its goal to provide safe refuge for victims of domestic violence who are in fear for their safety and don't have a safe place to stay.

#### **II. SCOPE**

This Training Bulletin applies to all Department personnel.

#### **III. BACKGROUND**

There have been instances where officers have responded to a domestic violence incident where the suspect is gone, the victim sustained serious injuries and/or is fearful for their safety with nowhere safe to go. There is concern that the suspect could return and cause further serious injuries which could potentially be fatal.

The San Diego Police Department Domestic Violence Unit has partnered with Your Safe Place (YSP) – A Family Justice Center, and Home Start Inc. to offer a temporary safe refuge for victims of domestic violence requiring short-term emergency shelter. This new YSP service is a pilot program and funding is being provided through the Domestic Violence Foundation.

**(Deleted – records of security)**. have been identified as safe hotels and their staff is aware that the guests are victims of domestic violence. The names and addresses of the participating hotels must be kept confidential. **(Deleted – records**

of security). hotels is in (Deleted – records of security).. This site is conveniently located on (Deleted – records of security). Trolley and bus stops are adjacent to the hotel providing convenient transportation. The (Deleted – records of security). is also conveniently located in (Deleted – records of security). Only the registered guests will be permitted on the hotel premises and in the registered room.

#### IV. PROCEDURES

When an officer encounters a situation where a domestic violence (DV) victim needs a safe refuge, the officer will explain that YSP offers a variety of services including temporary refuge at a safe hotel.

1. If the victim is willing to accept this service as well as a follow-up call from YSP.
  - a. The officer will brief their patrol sergeant who in turn will contact the on-call DV Unit sergeant.
  - b. The DV Unit sergeant will evaluate the incident and if services are accepted, the DV Unit sergeant will call one of the pre-identified hotels and make a reservation using a predetermined confidential booking code.
  - c. If the victim checks in on a weekday, they will be able to stay up to three (3) nights. If the victim arrives on a weekend, they may be eligible to stay for up to five (5) nights.
  - d. The booking will be eligible for the victim, their children, and any pets, if necessary.
2. Once the booking is confirmed, the DV Unit sergeant shall notify the patrol sergeant of the hotel where the reservation was made.
  - a. The officer shall notify the victim of the name and location of the participating hotel.
  - b. If the victim has transportation, the officer shall follow the victim to the hotel to ensure safe arrival and check-in.
  - c. If the victim does not have transportation, the officer may transport the victim to the hotel or shall assist in arranging

to transport the victim. The goal is to ensure the victim is safe and arrives safely at the hotel.

- d. Officers shall assist in arranging to transport the victim to an alternate shelter if the victim expresses a concern for their safety or the officer determines a need exists, in accordance with DP 4.04.
3. If the victim is not willing to stay at a safe hotel and chooses to stay somewhere else, the victim will be responsible for their own safety and expense at a place of their preference.
  4. If the victim is transported by an officer, the officer shall have their BWC activated, and shall comply with D.P. 1.49 and D.P. 6.01.
  5. **CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE HOTEL IS CRITICAL.**
    - a. When completing the officer's report, do not list the hotel name or address.
    - b. You shall list the name of the DV Unit sergeant who booked the room and state that they authorized the booking. The DV Unit sergeant will note the location and provide that information to YSP, and the detective assigned to the case for follow-up.

If you have any questions regarding this Training Bulletin, please contact a Detective Sergeant in the Domestic Violence Unit (**Deleted – records of security**).

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Please read at squad conferences and post.