



# Community Impact Report

2023



## A Message from the City Attorney



I am honored to serve as your City Attorney and proud to highlight the many accomplishments of our dedicated and talented staff in 2023. Our team of 187 attorneys and 220 support staff strives to protect San Diegans, and the results achieved across our divisions is the product of their hard work.

As City Attorney, I am focused on protecting San Diegans. We prioritize protecting victims of domestic violence and sex trafficking, preventing gun violence, standing up for taxpayers and consumers, and safeguarding our environment. During 2023, our team handled over 20,000 cases and connected thousands of residents to resources and services.

I'm particularly proud of our ongoing, pioneering work on Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO), which have disarmed over 1,500 people identified as a danger to themselves or others. In 2023, we added 118 more to that

total, continuing to lead the state in effective crisis intervention. Our groundbreaking efforts have received attention across the nation, and the State of California committed \$2.2 million to create a Gun Relinquishment Task Force that will enforce court orders requiring gun removal.

About one-third of GVROs disarm domestic abusers. Last year, critical legislation championed by our Office took effect. The new law, AB 2137, requires California family justice centers to inform domestic violence victims about this important gun violence prevention tool.

In 2023, the San Diego City Attorney's Family Justice Center, *Your Safe Place*, once again expanded services to add more mobile clinics and new forensic examination facilities.

My Office is proud of the services we provide to our City every day. Whether it's addressing a neighborhood nuisance, prosecuting a DUI, or holding bad contractors accountable, our attention is 100% focused on achieving the best results possible for our City.

I hope this report gives you a glimpse into the outstanding job our staff does for our City.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mara W. Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mara W. Elliott**  
San Diego City Attorney



Photo ©Bruce Damonte

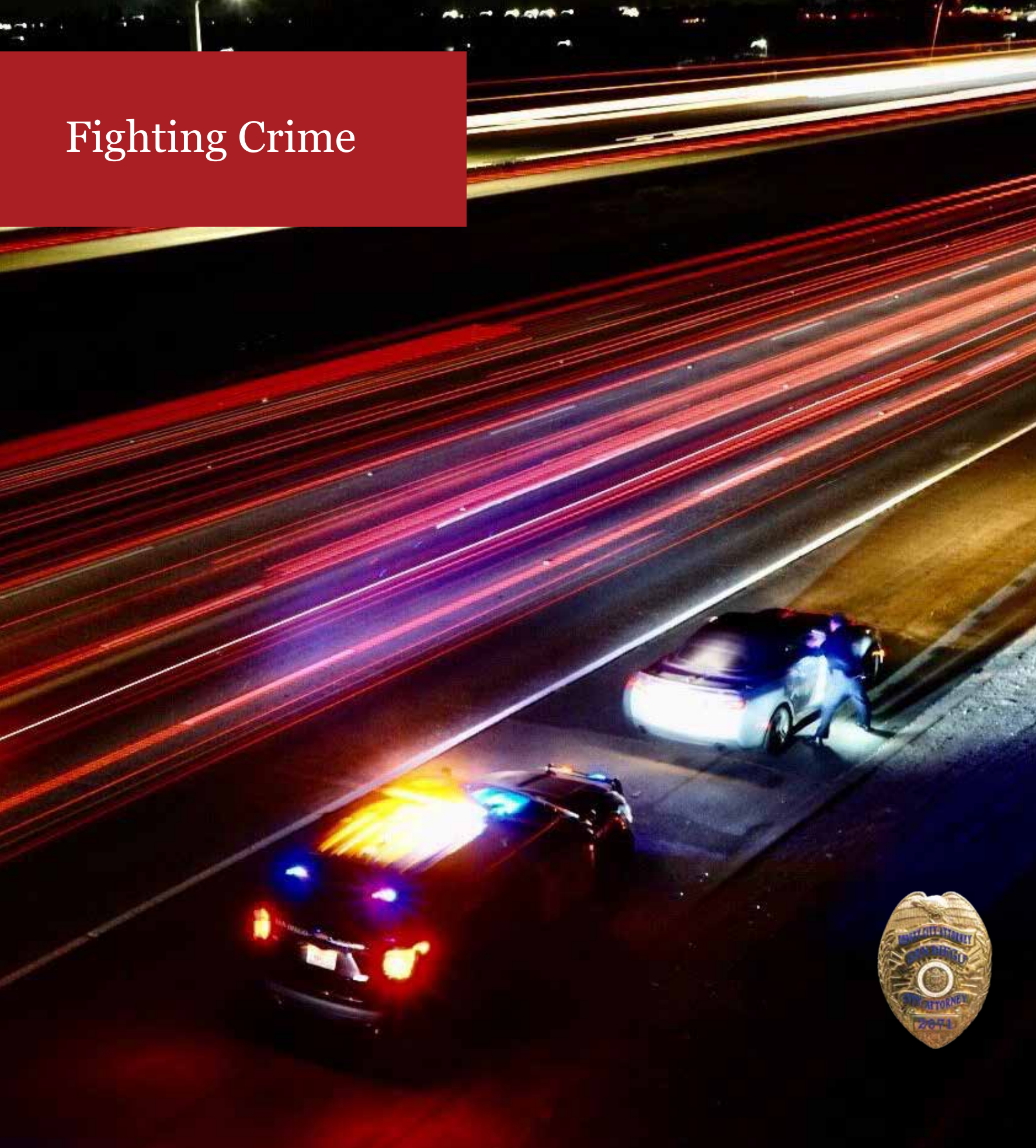
# Community Impact Report

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# Fighting Crime



As the City of San Diego’s prosecutor, the City Attorney plays a critical role in ensuring San Diego remains one of the safest large cities in America. In 2023, San Diego’s crime rate fell nearly 3% and we are proud of the role we played in achieving that positive result.







## 2023 Impact on Crime Prevention

8,164

PRE-TRIAL  
READINESS  
HEARINGS

ARRAIGNMENTS

7,037

100+

DAYS IN TRIAL

RESTITUTION  
OBTAINED ON BEHALF  
OF CRIME VICTIMS

\$754,831.26



## City Attorney's Office Impact on Human Trafficking in 2023

The FBI has ranked San Diego as one of the 13 highest-intensity trafficking areas in the country with an estimated 8,000 trafficking victims per year. It is reportedly an \$810 million industry.

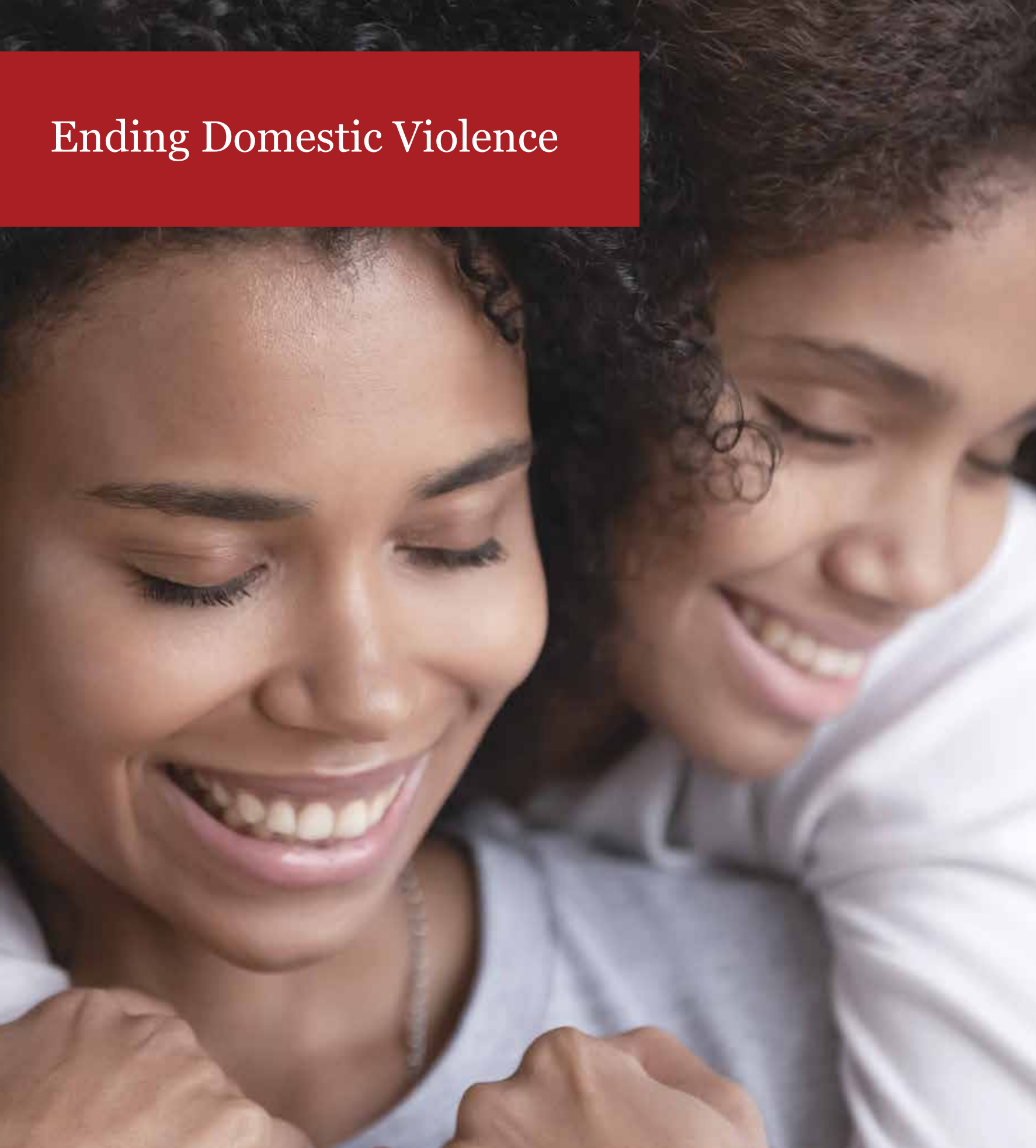
The Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit, the Nuisance Abatement Unit, and the Neighborhood Justice Unit are specially trained to recognize perpetrators of human trafficking and their victims. Deputy City Attorneys (DCAs) try cases and work with law enforcement to seek justice. Victim Service Coordinators (VSCs) help our clients navigate the criminal justice system and reclaim their lives.

A DCA also serves as a liaison to law enforcement on the San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force (SDHTTF). In 2023, the SDHTTF launched Operation Better Pathways. This multi-jurisdictional operation took place between January 9 and February 10 and is part of a broader regional effort to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation through targeted enforcement, relying both on surveillance of known locations and officers working undercover. As a result of this multi-day operation, 48 individuals were arrested for human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other criminal offenses. Forty-one individuals — including eight children — were offered support services, and two firearms were recovered, including a ghost gun. The arrests were referred to our Office, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California, for potential criminal prosecution.



In May 2023, City Attorney Elliott announced that the target of a human trafficking sting operation at the Main Street Motel in Barrio Logan had agreed to implement 36 separate compliance measures, geared towards thwarting human trafficking, as a condition for remaining in business. Police had been called to the motel 229 times since 2019.

# Ending Domestic Violence



To interrupt family violence before it escalates, the City Attorney's Office focuses on early intervention at the misdemeanor level. We assign a single prosecutor to follow each case from start to finish. These dedicated prosecutors help victims escape danger and ensure abusers face punishment and mandatory treatment. Our Office also supports a communitywide response to family violence to prevent it from recurring from generation to generation.







## Seeking Justice for Survivors

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Our Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit, which has been designated as a state-of-the-art program by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, investigates and prosecutes cases involving family and intimate partner violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. They also investigate animal abuse, owing to its close link with domestic violence. In 2023, the Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit reviewed over 2,000 cases.

## Notable 2023 prosecution successes

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### People v. Markbryan Q. Vilaga

*A defendant used his close relationship with the victim's family to sexually batter and molest a 16-old girl in her own home. The Domestic Violence and Sex Crimes Unit secured multiple convictions against the defendant, who is now required to register as a sex offender.*

### People v. D.A. Lamar

*A defendant beat and imprisoned a victim whose cries for help alerted neighbors in North Park, leading to a 40-minute standoff with police officers. Victim Services Coordinators provided the victim with lodging and transportation to court throughout the trial. A jury convicted the defendant.*

### People v. Raymond Lee Evans

*After being captured on home surveillance violently shaking and punching the victim's dog, later attacking the victim herself, and threatening her from jail, the defendant pleaded guilty to domestic violence battery and animal abuse charges.*

### People v. Ashley Bazer Root

*A female defendant attacked and punched the father of her child, causing injuries to his face and forehead. The jury convicted the defendant—who blamed her dangerous behavior on alcohol and claimed self defense—of domestic violence in less than 90 minutes. She is required to participate in domestic violence classes and complete a program for alcohol abuse. The defendant's conviction prohibits her from possessing any firearms for life.*





“I heard him click the knife in the kitchen, and then he just jabbed me right below my jaw. When I woke up, I didn’t know where my kids were. I didn’t know what had happened to them.”

— Survivor helped by City Attorney’s Office



# 2023 IMPACTS

City Attorney’s Office Impact  
on Domestic Violence

2,000

CASES REVIEWED

CASES RELATED TO  
FAMILY/INTIMATE  
PARTNER VIOLENCE

51%

4%

ELDER ABUSE CASES

RELATED TO VIOLATIONS  
OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS

28%

912

RESTRAINING ORDERS,  
FAMILY COURT ACTIONS,  
IMMIGRATION LEGAL  
CONSULTS, AND VACATURS



# Empowering Survivors



The City Attorney’s Office provides services to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking through *Your Safe Place (YSP)*, a family justice center. Last year alone, *YSP* care coordinators fielded nearly 20,000 service calls, providing thousands of survivors with the comprehensive assistance required to rebuild their lives.





### Expanding Your Safe Place (YSP) in 2023

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Every year, YSP helps hundreds of clients obtain wraparound services in a safe and confidential setting. Our services include housing assistance, legal counsel, forensic medical examinations, emotional and financial counseling, workforce readiness support, food, clothing, personal hygiene products, and school supplies.

### Humble Design Partnership

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Obtaining new housing is often a critical step to escape domestic abuse. The costs associated with rehousing can create a financial barrier that keeps many victims from leaving their abuser. YSP partnered with Humble Design, which custom designs and fully furnishes home interiors for individuals and families who are experiencing a housing crisis, including those fleeing domestic violence. Once referred by YSP, families meet with Humble Design designers who get to know their stories, goals, and dreams. From there, the designers, volunteers, and movers work quickly to find and furnish affordable housing for YSP families. This work allows families to focus on their personal and financial stability, including education, home life, employment, and building a better future.

### Bundle x Joy and BestyBnB Partnership: Safe Stays for Pets

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In August, YSP partnered with Bundle x Joy and BestyBnB to connect pet owners experiencing crisis situations with safe, temporary homes for their animals. BestyBnB has provided over 2,000 safe nights for pets with a 100% reunification rate.

### Expanding Our Reach with Mobile Clinics

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The YSP Mobile Clinics enable our Office to expand our geographical reach and serve remote, underrepresented victims. This includes non-English speakers, Native Americans, the elderly, the LGBTQIA+ community, the unhoused,



and those living below the poverty level. Mobile Clinics connect clients to services such as counseling, housing assistance, public transportation, and childcare programs, thereby eliminating barriers and increasing access to support and safety for those most vulnerable to abuse and hardship. Due to the success of our first and second years, we are planning nine more clinics throughout the City to help keep our community safe, resilient and free from violence.

### Child Forensic Exam Room

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More than 1,000 children require forensic interviews in San Diego county each year. At the end of last year, YSP opened a newly renovated room for investigators to interview children who are witnesses or victims of violence. The facility, made possible by a \$100,000 donation from Golden Door spa, supplements extensive services at Rady

Children's Chadwick Center and offers a more convenient location to families in southern San Diego communities. The space is currently available to San Diego Police Department and will eventually be offered as a resource to all law enforcement agencies.





Real stories from survivors helped by *Your Safe Place*

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“YSP helped me with a restraining order and housing. My son and I got really lucky. We are extremely grateful! They also paid and put me and my son in a shelter to keep us safe. They also gave me free clothes and hygiene products and makeup for court. It was so cool because it was like a stylist was there and she was very uplifting and kind to me.”

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“I’ve had a therapist here, nice people all around, help from the Volunteer Lawyer Program, and most importantly I’ve had a detective work and meet with YSP regarding something that occurred to me years ago. I am beyond grateful this place exists.”

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“YSP will save your life and the lives of your children. They have the resources, and they understand. They will give you and your family the tools to process the trauma of your situation and get you out. You and your kids will forever benefit from the services they provide, and if you just trust the process, they turn your rock-bottom into your trampoline.”

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“YSP helped me get away from my husband who was abusive mentally and physically. Now, I can get the help we need, and not be treated like a dog on a leash. They are amazing, such good people.”

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“YSP has been so supportive. I’m getting more counseling on a deeper level than I’ve ever had before because it includes the trauma. I feel like I’ve healed a lot. My hope is to continue to help others know that they too can come from a situation like this and make something of their life-to show my kids that no matter what type of life we came from, we also deserve a life, a beautiful life.”





# 2023 IMPACTS

City Attorney's Office Making  
a Difference for Domestic  
Violence Survivors

PHONE CALLS  
HANDLED BY  
THE YSP TEAM

19,430+

9,050

HOURS OF  
COUNSELING

595

CLIENTS PROVIDED WITH EMERGENCY GOODS LIKE SAFE AND SECURE PHONES, HOME AND PERSONAL SAFETY DEVICES

REFERRALS TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS

2,700

1,010

VOLUNTEER HOURS

ATTENDEES AT CHILDREN'S EVENT

410+

20

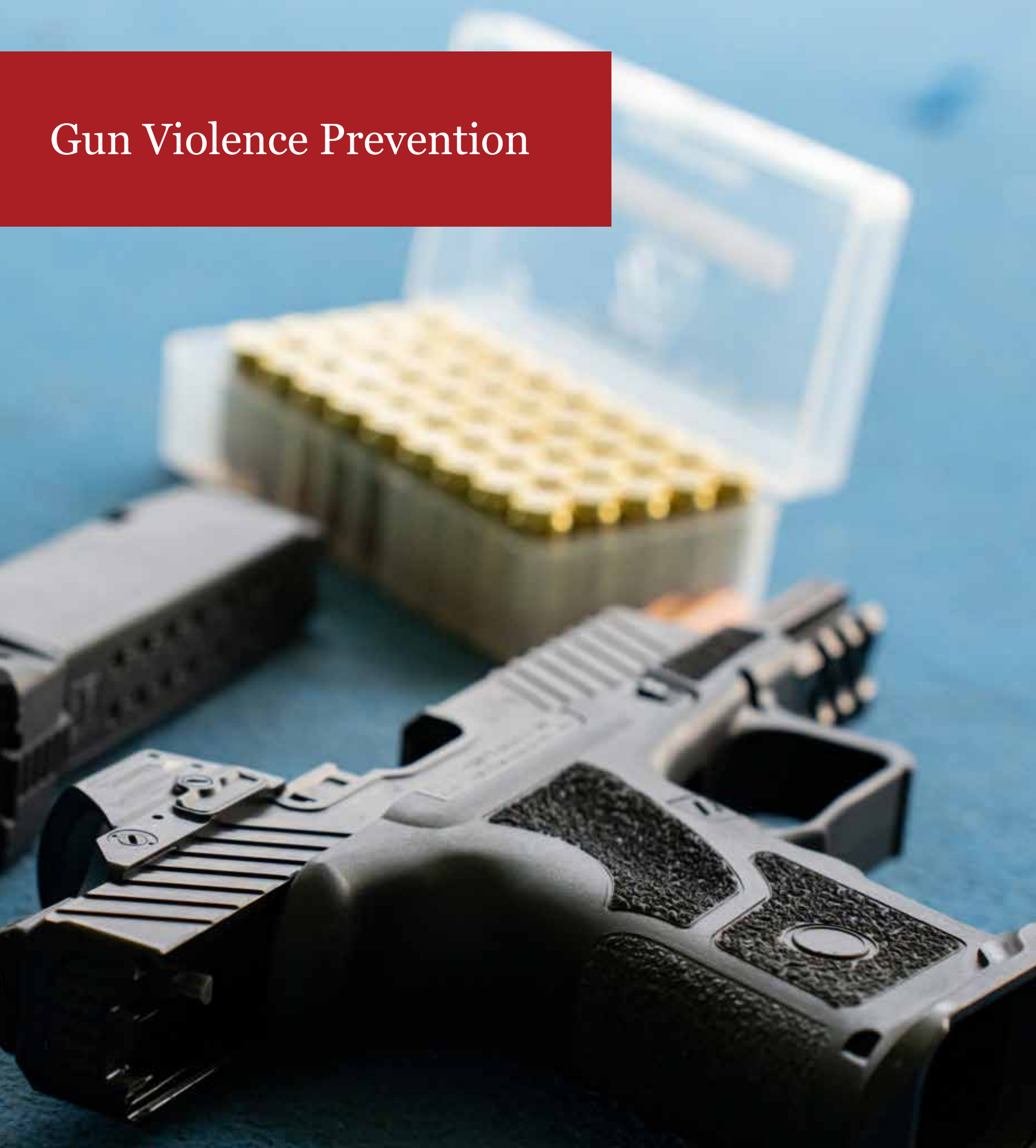
NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERS - NOW 82 PARTNERS IN TOTAL

9,400

HOURS OF SAFETY, ADVOCACY, AND RESOURCE SERVICES PROVIDED BY YSP CLIENT CARE COORDINATORS



# Gun Violence Prevention



The City Attorney's efforts to combat gun violence have been nationally recognized. California leaders continue to spotlight San Diego for its effective use of GVROs, which are court orders requiring the removal of weapons from those who are a danger to themselves or others. More than 3,500 firearms have been taken off the streets of San Diego through the efforts of the City Attorney.



## The Gun Violence Response Unit

Since its inception seven years ago, our Gun Violence Response Unit (GVRU) has successfully disarmed over 1,500 dangerous people and its work has been credited with averting 58 mass shootings statewide. In 2023, the City Attorney's Office filed a total of 118 successful GVROs.

For GVROs to be effective lifesaving tools, there must be dedicated staff, systems, infrastructure, and collaboration among law enforcement agencies. San Diego's pioneering approach, with the first-of-its-kind GVRU, has become a model for replication around the State and across the nation. Heading into our seventh year of statewide training, GVRU staff have educated over 500 law enforcement agencies on the San Diego gun violence prevention approach. In 2023, the State more than quadrupled funding for gun violence prevention efforts led by the San Diego City Attorney's Office. The City Attorney's GVRO training program received an additional \$2 million to expand law enforcement education efforts across California, and \$2.2 million through the Judicial Council, awarded to the San Diego Superior Court and San Diego Police Department, to lead a countywide task force to ensure gun relinquishment occurs upon issuance of a court order.

# The New York Times

## A Nationally Recognized Model to Prevent Gun Violence:

*“One model may be the city of San Diego, where the city attorney, Mara Elliott, has requested more than a thousand gun violence restraining orders since 2017. This month, the city requested and won the removal of a gun from an individual who threatened to kill people at a local hospital. “I think most people second-guess their judgment. They think, ‘I don’t know who to call,’ or ‘I don’t want to bother law enforcement, it’s probably nothing,’” Ms. Elliott said. “Now our community knows to make phone calls.”*



## 2023 IMPACTS

- GVRU
- Achievements

714

CASES REVIEWED

GVROS OBTAINED

118

140

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PARTNER AGENCIES TRAINED

“San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott has been *the* leader on using existing red flag laws, gun violence restraining orders, and operationalizing them in her office. She’s put resources and Deputy City attorneys, people who know how to build a case when they get information that indicates someone is about to harm someone else using a firearm, toward securing restraining orders to remove the weapons from dangerous individuals before they can harm someone. Over a third of gun violence restraining orders in the state of California came from San Diego not because there was such a greater need there, it was just because they were utilizing the tool more fully.”

—Attorney General Rob Bonta





### The Deadly Link Between Guns and Domestic Violence

The statistics speak for themselves: a woman's risk of homicide is highest when she is trying to end a relationship. A shocking 45% of all domestic violence homicides occur within 90 days of separation – most often within the first few days. Even more alarming, the presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide by 500%.

When physical safety is a concern and firearms are involved, the City Attorney's GVRU and YSP work together to prevent dangerous people from accessing weapons. City Attorney Elliott also worked with legislators to formalize and expand her work to protect domestic violence survivors from gun violence. She championed AB 2137, requiring family justice centers across California to inform clients about GVRs. The law went into effect in January 2023.

Disarming domestic abusers is at the center of City Attorney Elliott's gun violence prevention strategy. One-third of all GVRs obtained by our Office are against domestic abusers. These results help build a safer community for everyone, as domestic abusers are responsible for nearly 70% of all American mass shootings.

### Disarming Domestic Abusers

*"When it comes to preventing domestic violence and protecting victims, Mara is not messing around. Her work shows the clear correlation between Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRs) and the prevention of gun violence ... Because of Mara's leadership, San Diego is credited for spurring much of the statewide growth in the use of GVRs, according to a June 2020 study of California's "red flag" law published by the Journal of the American Medical Association. California's gun death rate is now 43% lower than the rest of the U.S."*

— GirlTalkHQ, 11/18/23

**GIRLTALKHQ**

## GVRs Save Lives

In 2023, our GVRU removed firearms from people who threatened the public, schools, places of worship, coworkers, family members, neighbors, strangers, and themselves.

### In 2023, GVRs Were Obtained Against the Following Individuals:

*A man enraged by his vehicle being towed threatened to grab a gun and begin shooting people, after which several gunshots were fired including at a San Diego Police Department helicopter flying over the scene. Subsequent searches of the man's home recovered an unregistered shotgun, two rifles, and a large amount of ammunition. [Official Report, 4/5/23]*

*A man who threatened to kill several church leaders, his wife, and himself after being expelled from the church. An incident at another house of worship involved a man who had threatened to commit suicide while holding a handgun to his head.*

*[Times of San Diego, 6/6/23]*

*A man who boarded a downtown trolley and pointed a loaded gun at several passengers. [CBS8, 2/2/23]*

*An emergency room patient who threatened to "come back and shoot ten people" at the hospital after becoming agitated about admission. [CBS8, 2/2/23]*

*A person who fired into a neighbor's apartment after calling police about a prowler and later admitted to being paranoid, stressed, and having gone 24 hours without sleep*

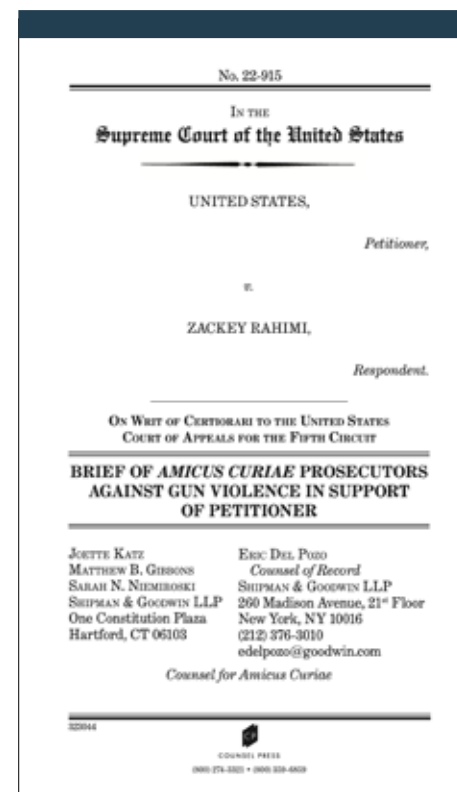
*[Times of San Diego, 3/3/23]*

*A man who threatened a shooting at his workplace if he did not receive his final paycheck.*

*[Times of San Diego, 3/3/23]*

*A woman who threatened to shoot a security guard after being denied entry to a bar. [Times of San Diego, 3/3/23]*

*A student who had threatened to "get a gun and shoot teachers and students" at his high school. [Times of San Diego, 3/3/23]*



### Supreme Court Upholds Constitutionality

In 2023, City Attorney Elliott weighed in as the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *U.S. v. Rahimi*, a case that challenged current law prohibiting the possession of firearms by persons subject to domestic-violence restraining orders. As the City's prosecutor, City Attorney Elliott signed onto an amicus brief authored by Prosecutors Against Gun Violence, urging the Court to retain this valuable life-saving tool for prosecutors, domestic abuse survivors, and the public. City Attorney Elliott published numerous op-eds drawing on the Office's groundbreaking use of GVRs in San Diego to diffuse volatile situations, including domestic abuse. In 2024, the Supreme Court ruled that abusers subject to restraining orders do not have a constitutional right to own guns, reversing the Fifth Circuit's dangerous ruling.



# Protecting Our Community



The San Diego City Attorney's Office is one of a handful of agencies throughout the state empowered to file lawsuits on behalf of the People of California. The Office uses its legal authority to protect workers, consumers, and our region's environmental resources.







### **Protecting our families and our neighborhoods**

The Community Justice Division prosecutes cases that are important to our quality of life. Prosecutors work with the community, police, and other law enforcement agencies to build safe neighborhoods. The Division includes the Nuisance Abatement Unit (NAU) and the Neighborhood Justice and Collaborative Courts Unit (NJU).

NJU prosecutes quality-of-life crimes and works side-by-side with law enforcement and community members on problem-solving

initiatives. Its work includes appearances at Behavioral Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Drug Court, the Sex Trafficking Education and Prevention Program, Beach Area Community Court, and Homeless Court.

DCAs assigned to NJU are present every week at their assigned SDPD Commands, working closely with detectives and command staff to submit cases to our Office.

In 2023, NJU reviewed over 6,619 cases, two-thirds of which proceeded to prosecution. The Office worked with SDPD and the District

Attorney's Office to modernize the case submission process, enabling law enforcement to submit cases directly to our management system. This has streamlined the entire process and allowed case inputs to proceed faster than ever.

### **Addressing Hate and Defending Vulnerable Populations**

The City Attorney's Office works with state and federal agencies to prosecute hate crimes to the fullest extent of the law. As a member of the San Diego Regional Hate

Crimes Coalition, our Office collaborates with community-based organizations and law enforcement agencies to combat hate.

Our Special Prosecutions Unit (SPU) has prosecuted dozens of hate crime cases in recent years. In January 2023, our Office secured the conviction of a man who had threatened and attacked staff, and drew a swastika on the window of the Crest Café in Hillcrest. In April, the Office secured the conviction of a man who verbally abused a disabled victim in a wheelchair at a 7-Eleven in East Village.





### Defending Workers

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Established in 2018, the City Attorney's Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit (ACE) protects workers, the environment, and consumers.

City Attorney Elliott filed suit against Instacart over its misclassification of independent contractors in 2019, seeking restitution for exploited workers and demanding that the company provide workers with basic job protections that are guaranteed under state law. The case marked a milestone for the City Attorney's efforts to hold gig economy companies accountable. In May of last year, Instacart began dispersing a \$46.5-million settlement covering 308,000 individuals who worked for the company.

The City Attorney's Office is also part of a worker misclassification case brought by the California Attorney General against Uber and Lyft. In October, the First District Court of Appeal unanimously rejected the companies' stall tactics to push the case into arbitration, clearing the path to litigation.

### Protecting Senior Citizens

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The NAU also pursues elder abuse cases. In February, an unlicensed care provider was convicted after he did not notice a 66-year-old Alzheimer's patient in his care had left the facility and was found wandering in traffic the next day. The provider was sentenced to 30 days in jail, which will be stayed pending successful completion of one year of probation, and must complete 40 hours of volunteer work at a non-profit organization. He is barred from owning or operating an unlicensed care facility, or providing unlicensed care to anyone who requires assistance with routine daily tasks.

### Stopping Street Racing

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The NJU aggressively prosecutes street racing across San Diego. In May 2023, our team secured a jail sentence for a man who had been caught racing five other drivers on Interstate 15 at speeds up to 90 miles per hour, veering between lanes and opening his driver's side door while accelerating.

### Preventing and Prosecuting Impaired Driving

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The San Diego City Attorney's Office Criminal Division prosecutes driving under the influence (DUI) cases generated by more than 15 law enforcement agencies, who submit evidence to the Sheriff's Crime Lab and the San Diego Police Department Crime Lab. This includes DUI arrest reports occurring within the City of San Diego, the City of Poway, and the unincorporated area known as 4S Ranch. Every year, the City Attorney's Office reviews approximately 2,500 DUI cases and files over 2,000 DUI cases.

Prosecution remains the most effective way to save lives, but DUI cases involving drugs can be difficult to prosecute - even following a positive test - due to public misconceptions about cannabis and prescription medications. Successful prosecutions require a proper understanding of the signs of drugged driving impairment, probable defense arguments, and familiarity of drug toxicology.

The highly trained Drug DUI Prosecution Team within the City Attorney's Office handles these complex cases throughout each step of the criminal process. One Deputy City Attorney oversees each case, from arrest through conviction and sentencing. Prosecutors work to secure convictions and appropriate sentences that reflect the public safety risk posed by the offender, mentor trial attorneys on how to successfully try high-risk DUI offenders, and host quarterly roundtable meetings with law enforcement personnel.

In November, the City Attorney's Office was awarded a \$410,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, a 50% increase in funding over the previous year, to help fund the specialized team of prosecutors focused on drugged and impaired driving cases. The funding contributed to the prosecution of 272 misdemeanor cases of driving under the influence of drugs, alcohol or a combination.



# Protecting Taxpayers



The City Attorney reports directly to voters and puts their interests first. Representing San Diego in court, taking legal action against bad actors, and advising other City officials on the performance of their duties, the City Attorney plays a critical watchdog role. The Office is fiercely independent from political pressure, focusing instead on protecting taxpayer dollars from legal and fiscal abuse.





The City Attorney's Office makes protecting taxpayers a priority across divisions, whether litigating claims on the City's behalf, vetting contracts, or aggressively pursuing bad actors who have harmed our community. The City of San Diego is sued about 200 times a year. Cases range from excessive force cases to employment matters to negligence cases to personal injury.

The City Attorney works with the Mayor, City Council, and City departments to ensure that they have the information they need to make good decisions on behalf of their constituents.

### Unsafe Camping Ordinance

In June 2023, the City Council approved the Unsafe Camping Ordinance, which bans homeless encampments near sensitive areas like schools, transit hubs, public parks, canyons, and river beds at all times, and on any outdoor spaces when shelter beds are available. Our Office worked with the Mayor and Council to draft legislation that protects the constitutional rights of unsheltered individuals and the public's right to health and safety.

### Ethics Reform and Transparency: Keeping Government Accountable

City Attorney Elliott proposed a sweeping ethics reform agenda in 2023 to ensure the City delivers on its responsibilities to residents. The reforms address a wide variety of City operations, such as adding whistleblower protections to the Municipal Code and developing a whistleblower resource page and more comprehensive training.

City Attorney Elliott also reiterated her often-stated support for the creation of a Transparency Office staffed by a trained team of California Public Records Act (CPRA) experts whose job responsibility is to ensure access to City records. The current system, is presently decentralized, increasing the City's margin of error and unnecessarily exposing it to liability.

The CPRA gives the public the right to access records created and maintained by public agencies in the course of their normal business. Ensuring prompt access to public records strengthens government transparency and builds public trust. In 2023, 83% of the 6,857 public record requests in San Diego were completed within 12 days and 96% completed within two months.

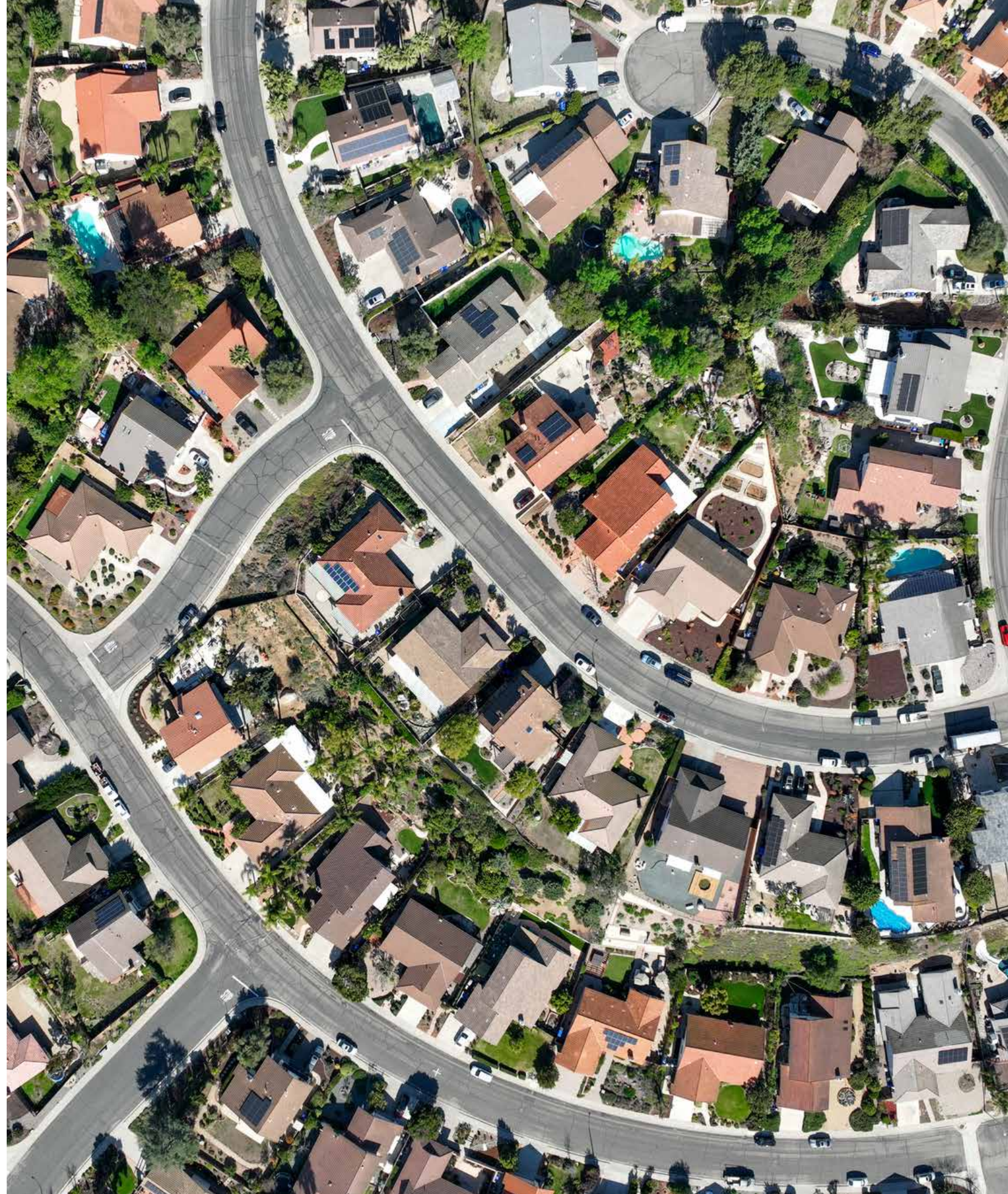


Photo ©Samuel Sharp / BuildSD.org



## City Attorney's Office Impacts on Protecting Taxpayers in 2023

- **In January**, the owners of the C Street Inn were ordered to pay thousands of dollars in penalties and to reimburse City taxpayers \$332,000 for the cost of relocating 66 residents who were subjected to building and fire code violations. The hotel had been the subject of 18 code enforcement cases in recent years, and SDPD had spent over 550 hours after responding more than 220 times since May 2019 to address criminal and nuisance activity at the location.
- **In March**, City Attorney Elliott announced litigation against Hyundai and Kia over their failure to install standard car anti-theft technology thereby contributing to the soaring theft rates and tremendous law enforcement response costs in San Diego. During the first six months of 2022, San Diego Police Department reported 146 stolen Hyundai and Kia vehicles, a figure that more than doubled to 369 in the latter half of the year.
- **After a years-long effort**, the Office resolved a chronic public nuisance, a burnt-out property near an elementary school in Grant Hill. Police and firefighters had responded to 75 calls regarding the property, and at least ten fires broke out at the site between March 2022 and January 2023. The owner had been served with multiple orders to vacate and secure the property to no effect. In April, our Office succeeded in getting the Court to assign a health and safety receiver to secure the four-unit property and oversee its demolition or rehabilitation.
- **In April**, the Office filed suit against the Australia-based owners of the nearly century-old California Theatre building, at the corner of Fourth Avenue and C Street downtown, which has been deteriorating for years and is a public safety hazard. The complaint seeks to require the property owners to fix dangerous conditions on site or allow the City to do so at the owners' expense.
- **In April**, the City Attorney's Office announced a settlement with United Site Services for \$1.18 million. The City alleged the company overcharged it for portable shower trailers obtained during the COVID state of emergency. The ACE unit filed the case under the California Unfair Competition Law.
- **In September**, the City Attorney's Office filed suit against SeaWorld, demanding over \$12 million in back rent the company has failed to pay, claiming exemptions due to the pandemic. SeaWorld operates on nearly 200 acres of City land. Hundreds of organizations have similar leases with the City, but SeaWorld is the only major City tenant that has remained in default of its rent obligations.







**Office of the City Attorney**

Civic Center Plaza

1200 Third Ave., #1620, San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: 619-236-6220 | TDD/TTY: 619-702-7198 | Fax: 619-236-7215

Email: [cityattorney@sandiego.gov](mailto:cityattorney@sandiego.gov)