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San Diego Secures 18 Gun Violence Restraining Orders in January

During the month of January 2023, the City Attorney's Office intervened in 18 situations to obtain Gun Violence Restraining Orders against individuals who posed a threat to themselves or others.

GVROs are obtained by the Office's Gun Violence Response Unit on behalf of the San Diego Police Department and approved by a judge.

San Diego is a national leader in using "red flag" laws to prevent predictable gun violence and save lives. GVROs are civil orders that prohibit the use, purchase, or possession of all firearms and ammunition. They can remain in effect for one to five years.

GVROs are used to intervene quickly when lives are at risk. An "emergency temporary" GVRO lasts 21 days. When a long-term gun prohibition is sought, respondents are afforded full due-process rights, including the right to legal representation in a court hearing that is open to the public. The after-hearing order can last between one and five years.

Here is a look at some of the behaviors that led to GVROs in January:

- The wife and daughter of a man, who was showing signs of dementia, called the police after he began walking around his home with a shotgun and saying he was going to "take care of business."
- A woman called the police to say her ex-boyfriend had posted a sexually explicit video of her without her consent. When the victim showed officers her ex-boyfriend's social media account, one of the pictures showed him with a pistol that he was prohibited from possessing because of two previous felony convictions.
- A man boarded the trolley in downtown San Diego. After an argument with strangers, he pointed a loaded Glock 17 pistol at the riders.

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- An emergency room patient who didn't want to be admitted to the hospital became agitated and yelled, "I'm going to go buy a gun and come back and shoot 10 people." The respondent also yelled, "Next time I come back, I'm going to come back with a gun and whoever crosses my path will get shot."
- A road rage incident continued to the victim's workplace where the other driver got out of his car and began yelling at the victim, accusing him of speeding through the neighborhood. The commotion led the victim's boss to come out and apologize to the respondent, who then went back to his car and retrieved a pistol, pointing it at the victim and yelling, "I'm going to end you, you little s***."
- A man was captured by home surveillance shooting his pistol into the air approximately 20 times just past midnight on New Year's Day.

Find out more about how the City Attorney's Office is protecting San Diego from gun violence [here](#).

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