



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 5, 2023

Contact: Richard Jackoway at

RJackoway@sandiego.gov or (619) 533-6176

Court Approves GVRO After Man Shoots at Neighbors, Police Helicopter

13 Gun Violence Restraining Orders secured in March

The City Attorney's Office secured 13 Gun Violence Restraining Orders in March. Interventions included situations where threats were made against a fast-food worker, two homeless men, and a police helicopter.

GVROs allow for the removal of guns and ammunition in dangerous situations that include threats of suicide, domestic violence, and workplace violence. GVROs are intended to de-escalate crisis situations and to keep our communities safe.

Incidents in March included the following:

- A man called the police to report that his vehicle and boat had been stolen. When informed that they had been towed by the SDPD, the man became enraged. He threatened to grab a gun and start shooting people. About 25 minutes later, neighbors heard seven or eight gunshots. An SDPD helicopter flew over the scene and became a target. Neither the people nor the helicopter was struck by the gunfire.

A search of the man's house recovered an unregistered shotgun, two unregistered rifles, and a large amount of ammunition.

- An employee of a local fast-food restaurant was working the drive-thru window when he recognized a regular customer who had previously caused problems. The woman demanded that she be able to use two coupons when only one was allowed. Even though the worker accommodated the request, the woman was still angry because the additional menu item increased the cost of her bill.

While sitting in her car at the window, the woman displayed a holstered firearm and stated threateningly, "I am done with you."

Two victims were threatened by a gun-wielding man while living in a tent downtown. The man accused them of urinating on his car, took a pistol out of his pants, racked the slide, and brandished the gun at the men. The incident was captured by a local business's surveillance camera. The victims called the police who stopped the man as he left a nearby bar while still armed.

- A father who shared custody of his child brandished a revolver at the child's babysitter while trying to take the child.
- A husband grabbed his wife by the throat twice in front of their three children and prevented the victim from calling the police. The man also held a gun to his head and said he could "stop everything, like that."

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.

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.

In all cases, by law, authorities must seek the least restrictive remedy that ensures the safety of individuals and the public.

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

###