



San Diego City Attorney
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California Leaders Launch New Effort to Keep Guns Out of the Hands of Dangerous Individuals

Historic Expansion of State's Gun Violence Restraining Order Program Announced in San Diego

The state that leads the nation in groundbreaking programs to prevent gun violence today, August 6, announced the largest single expansion of its signature program to disarm dangerous individuals through the courts. A little more than six weeks after the US Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of disarming certain dangerous individuals in the landmark Rahimi decision, California is doubling down on Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) and other court orders to more quickly identify and disarm those at risk of using a gun to hurt themselves or others.

“We want the people of California and the nation to know that the evidence is in on gun violence restraining orders,” said City Attorney Elliott. “They work. They save lives, and as you can see from the representation here today, you can have confidence that your request for help obtaining a GVRO will be handled appropriately, professionally and above all - quickly.”

[NOTE: An online version of the press conference is viewable online at <https://youtu.be/qtH1uS0luNU>]

The City of San Diego, through a collaboration between San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott and the San Diego Police Department, has obtained more GVROs than any other City in the U.S. and taken more than 3,700 dangerous weapons off the streets. City Attorney Elliott, was joined today in announcing a new initiative by U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California, Tara McGrath, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and Deputy Chief of Police Paul Connelly.

“Through working with the City Attorney to enforce Gun Violence Restraining Orders, San Diego is leading in the efforts to reduce gun violence. Today marks the next step in keeping our communities safe,” Police Chief Wahl said. “The Gun Relinquishment Task Force will expand our efforts so that people ordered to give up their firearms by the courts will be in compliance. I want to recognize the City Attorney and her team for being such a great partner and for the Attorney General for recognizing our work and taking it statewide.”

The expansion announced today includes:

- \$2.2 million to help identify more individuals who should not have access to dangerous weapons through increased training for law enforcement and education for the public on how to use GVROs and other court orders that prevent firearm possession. While continuing to stress the availability of GVROs, the program will emphasize the importance of obtaining the right type of court order in every case. The funding has been provided by the

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California Department of Justice to the San Diego City Attorney's Office, which was chosen by the state to train other law enforcement agencies.

- \$2 million for a new Firearms Relinquishment Task Force to enforce court orders against dangerous individuals prohibited from owning weapons. The Task Force met for the first-time last week. Funding was provided by the California Judicial Council to the San Diego Superior Court and will be administered through a partnership between SDPD, the City Attorney's Office and additional law enforcement agencies throughout the region.

As a co-sponsor of the original legislation creating GVROs, Attorney General Bonta said he was proud to help fund the most recent expansion of the program. He said California has provided an example to the nation on how to effectively reduce gun violence, just as San Diego is providing an example to other parts of the state.

"I commend the leaders of San Diego for establishing this groundbreaking program and task force," said Attorney General Rob Bonta. "California has led the nation by providing multiple protection order options to protect survivors and disarm individuals perpetrating violence and abuse. These interventions are all vital to preventing gun violence and can serve as a model for other states. We have a robust gun-safety toolkit. San Diego is leading the way in utilizing that safety toolkit to proactively prevent violence, obtain protection orders, and ensure that people subject to these orders are quickly and safely disarmed. These efforts are vital, and [the Department of Justice] DOJ is proud to help support, implement, and fund them."

California was the first state in the nation to pass a Red Flag Law when it introduced Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) nearly a decade ago following the Isla Vista mass shooting. Since that time, 20 states have followed California's example. (Many states use the term Extreme Risk Protection Orders, or ERPOs, to refer to the procedure.) The success of the program led to the announcement today.

"Gun violence is a nationwide problem demanding law enforcement coordination at every level," said U.S. Attorney Tara McGrath. "The U.S. Attorney's Office is working with our local partners to support prevention efforts and offer federal charging options."

Following the press announcement today, City Attorney Elliott released the first PSA as part of the public education campaign on the availability of GVROs. The video was produced by the California District Attorneys Association in partnership with the City Attorney's office. Highlights of the PSA videos are available online at: <https://vimeo.com/993746095/1a1fbc9b3e?share=copy>.

NOTE: A map of those counties where law enforcement agencies have received training from the San Diego City Attorney's Office is below.

