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PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 4, 2025

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO AWARDED \$1 MILLION STATE GRANT TO CONTINUE EXPANDING GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CRISIS INTERVENTION EFFORTS

SAN DIEGO — The City of San Diego has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the California Board of State and Community Corrections to expand gun violence prevention and crisis intervention efforts. The funding will be administered by the City Attorney's Office through the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP). The City's proposal received the highest score among the largest of the 17 California agencies awarded funding this cycle.

The San Diego City Attorney's Office will lead the initiative and expand its existing program to reduce gun violence. Grant resources will provide crisis intervention services and allow client care coordinators to connect at-risk individuals with specialized support, treatment, and follow-up services. This work will build on the success of the City Attorney's Gun Violence Reduction Unit (GVRU), which has become a statewide model for the effective use of Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs). The grant will also strengthen the Office's community outreach and education efforts focused on the critical role GVROs play in preventing harm. GVROs temporarily restrict an individual's access to firearms, firearm parts, ammunition, magazines, and body armor when they pose a danger to themselves or others. In addition to interrupting cycles of interpersonal violence, GVROs remain a vital tool in suicide prevention, as firearms continue to be the leading method of suicide nationwide.

"San Diego continues to lead in effective gun violence prevention, and this grant strengthens our ability to intervene early and responsibly," said **City Attorney Heather Ferbert**. "With expanded resources, we can better identify warning signs, support those in crisis, and use GVROs to prevent potential tragedies."

SCIP funding will provide Behavioral Threat Assessment training to Deputy City Attorneys, City Attorney Investigators, San Diego Police Department (SDPD) personnel working in the Gun Violence Reduction Units, and crisis intervention staff. The training will enhance the City's ability to recognize high-risk situations and provide timely and coordinated responses.

The grant will also support safe firearm storage initiatives by increasing SDPD's evidence locker capacity and funding the purchase of free gun locks for public distribution.

The San Diego City Attorney's Office serves as a model for jurisdictions seeking to develop or strengthen their own GVRO programs. This new funding will allow the Office to expand its proven strategies at a time when gun violence remains a pressing concern for communities throughout California.

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