



San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

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State Appropriates \$50,000 to City Attorney's Office for Gun Violence Restraining Order Training

San Diego City Attorney's Office to train law enforcement agencies throughout the state

The state budget signed by Gov. Jerry Brown this week appropriates funds for the San Diego City Attorney's Office to train law enforcement agencies throughout California on the use of Gun Violence Restraining Orders.

The appropriation, which reflects the leadership of City Attorney Mara W. Elliott in protecting the public from people who should not have guns, was included at the request of Assemblymember Phil Ting, the chair of the Assembly Budget Committee.

Since December, the City Attorney's Office has obtained 39 Gun Violence Restraining Orders against gun owners who are a threat to themselves or others. The cases often involve underlying issues, including addiction, dementia, and other mental health problems, coupled with specific threats of violence or threatening behavior. Six of the GVROs were against individuals (one adult and five minors) who posed threats to students, teachers, or other school employees.

On May 1, the City Attorney led a regional symposium on Gun Violence Restraining Orders at which more than two dozen government and law enforcement agencies from San Diego County were trained on the processes to obtain GVROs.

Assemblymember Ting subsequently proposed that the City Attorney's Office conduct trainings throughout the state and included \$50,000 in the budget to cover staff time, travel expenses, and training materials. Ting is the author of AB 2888 which, if enacted, would expand who can pursue a GVRO to include school personnel, employers, and co-workers.

"I am committed to helping law enforcement agencies understand how to save lives through the use of Gun Violence Restraining Orders," City Attorney Mara Elliott said. **"GVROs allow the courts to thoughtfully determine whether individuals who have access to firearms are a threat to themselves or others before a tragedy occurs. We are pleased to share our processes and expertise throughout the state, as we have done in San Diego County."**

Within the last month, the City Attorney's Office has obtained nine new GVROs, including two against individuals who made threats by text message and social media:

- A 41-year old man from Mira Mesa who sent text messages to relatives stating that he was going to kill himself, followed by a photo of himself holding a semi-automatic handgun to his own head. Police officers contacted the man and placed him on a temporary, involuntary psychiatric hold. The man surrendered two self-built rifles after being served with the order.
- A 28-year old man, also from Mira Mesa, who had a disagreement with his cousin after she refused to give him money. The man sent threatening texts to his cousin and her family, and then he posted photo of himself on Facebook holding bullets with a caption stating they were for his cousin and her family.

Representatives of the City Attorney's Office will travel to municipalities throughout the state to conduct trainings for law enforcement agencies, including prosecutors, city police, county sheriffs, and school district and college police forces.

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