



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 28, 2019

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Governor Newsom Expands City Attorney Elliott's Statewide Training to Prevent Gun Violence

The state budget signed yesterday by Gov. Gavin Newsom includes \$250,000 for the Office of San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott to continue training law enforcement agencies throughout California on the use of Gun Violence Restraining Orders.

The five-fold increase in funding reflects the success of the training program Elliott launched last year. The program began with \$50,000 that had been requested by Assemblymember Phil Ting, the chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, and was included in the final budget under Gov. Jerry Brown. Ting requested the funding this year as well.

Since May 2018, the City Attorney's Office has conducted 18 trainings for more than 220 law enforcement and government agencies throughout the State of California in cities such as Anaheim, San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland, Eureka, Stockton, Fresno, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

Each training session runs three hours and is hosted by a local law enforcement agency. The Ventura County District Attorney, California Department of Justice, and numerous city attorneys have also hosted trainings in their regions. The City Attorney's Office has extended trainings to non-government agencies, medical and mental health professionals, and schools, both locally and throughout the state. Roughly 1,500 individuals have received GVRO training by the City Attorney.

Since Elliott launched the first GVRO program in California in December 2017, her Office has emerged as a national leader on using GVROs to remove firearms from individuals who present a serious risk of harm to themselves or others. GVROs have been used to prevent domestic violence homicide, suicide, and violence in workplaces and on school campuses.

"Gov. Newsom recognizes how effective GVROs are at saving lives, and this funding represents a serious commitment to preventing predictable gun violence throughout California" San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **"With these additional funds for training and staff, my office can continue to be a resource to any law enforcement agency that wants to use GVROs to protect the public."**

In 17 months, the City Attorney's Office has obtained 175 GVROs, removing hundreds of firearms, including more than a dozen assault rifles, from dangerous owners.

Recent City Attorney media releases can be accessed on the San Diego City Attorney's home page located on the Internet at <https://www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney>

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In each case, the individual's behavior was reported to a law enforcement agency, such as the San Diego Police Department, which then brings the cases to the City Attorney's Office for review as a potential Gun Violence Restraining Order.

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