

RESOLUTION NO. 081117

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION TO DISSOLVE THE SAN MATEO COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL AND RECOMMEND RESTRUCTURING TO ENHANCE EFFECTIVENESS AND EXPAND SCOPE

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, on November 17, 1998, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 62407, establishing the Domestic Violence Council (“DVC”); and

WHEREAS, the DVC operates as the County’s task force on violent crimes against women, pursuant to California Penal Code Section 14140; and

WHEREAS, the DVC has provided critical leadership for more than two decades in addressing domestic violence in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the current structure of the DVC, which is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act, imposes limitations that restrict the Council’s ability to act nimbly and effectively on urgent, critical matters, including ensuring survivor confidentiality, facilitating robust engagement, and enabling full participation of County staff members and public stakeholders outside formal, agendized meetings; and

WHEREAS, an ad hoc DVC Task Force, established in 2023 and not subject to Brown Act constraints, has demonstrated greater flexibility and effectiveness in

developing key initiatives to address domestic violence issues, such as the Domestic Violence High-Risk Case Multidisciplinary Team, the Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team (DVERT), and research on the County's new Family Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, as currently structured, the DVC's focus on domestic violence is narrower than Penal Code section 14140's focus, which includes all violent crimes against women, and the intersections between domestic violence and sexual violence warrant a holistic and expanded approach; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2025, the Domestic Violence Council unanimously approved a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to dissolve the DVC in its current form and to recommend that the County Executive restructure its function within the County, expanding the scope to include additional types of violence, including but not be limited to sexual violence and domestic violence as that term is defined under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, California Family Code section 6211; and

WHEREAS, the recommended restructuring envisions a new group within the County Executive's Office—or another appropriate County office or department—that includes key stakeholders, survivor representation, and a mandate to meet more flexibly and respond dynamically to emerging issues; and

WHEREAS, this recommended restructuring aligns with the County's broader vision for a future Family Justice Center and provides an opportunity to enhance communication, coordination, and services for survivors of intimate partner, domestic, and sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors dissolves the Domestic Violence Council effective immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board recommends that the County Executive determine how best to create a restructured group under an appropriate County Office or Department in alignment with the Proposal to Restructure the San Mateo County Domestic Violence Council, approved April 10, 2025 by the Domestic Violence Council, which would allow the group to:

1. Expand the group's focus to include both domestic violence and sexual violence;
2. Incorporate survivor representation through a Survivor Advisory group;
3. Align its work with the forthcoming Family Justice Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends its gratitude to the members of the Domestic Violence Council for their years of service and dedication to improving the safety and well-being of individuals and families across San Mateo County and encourages members to continue their work in any restructured group the County Executive might create.

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Regularly passed and adopted this 6th day of May, 2025

AYES and in favor of said resolution:

Supervisors:

JACKIE SPEIER

RAY MUELLER

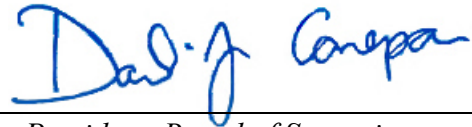
LISA GAUTHIER

DAVID J. CANEPA

NOES and against said resolution:

Supervisors:

NOELIA CORZO



*President, Board of Supervisors
County of San Mateo
State of California*

Certificate of Delivery

I certify that a copy of the original resolution filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County has been delivered to the President of the Board of Supervisors.



Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors